



WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that an **ORDINARY MEETING** of Wentworth Shire Council will be held in the **MIDWAY CENTRE, BURONGA AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING**, commencing at **10:00AM**.

The meeting is being livestreamed and/or recorded for on-demand viewing via Council's website and a person's image and/or voice may be broadcast.

Attendance at the meeting is to be taken as consent by a person to their image and/or voice being webcast.

All speakers should refrain from making any defamatory comments or releasing personal information about another individual without their consent.

Council accepts no liability for any damage that may result from defamatory comments made by persons attending meetings – all liability will rest with the individual who made the comments.

The meeting must not be recorded by others without prior written consent of the Council in accordance with the Council's code of meeting practice.

KEN ROSS
GENERAL MANAGER

ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

17 MARCH 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	OPENING OF MEETING	1
2	PRAYER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	1
3	APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE	1
4	DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS	1
5	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	1
6	OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS	31
6.1	Outstanding Matters from Previous Meetings.....	31
6.2	Willowbend Caravan Park Update.....	35
7	MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS	37
7.1	Mayoral Report	37
8	REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES	38
	Nil	
9	REPORTS TO COUNCIL	39
9.1	General Manager's Report	39
9.2	Attendance and Motions at the Murray Darling Association 77th National Conference and Annual General Meeting.....	45
9.3	Slattery & Johnson Report	48
9.4	Request to Amend the Date of April Ordinary Council Meeting	86
9.5	Monthly Finance Report	87
9.6	Monthly Investment Report	90
9.7	A34 East Wentworth Sewerage Works & Easement Acquisition	96
9.8	Cancellation of the Wentworth District Rowing Club Easter Regatta	100
9.9	New process for lodging Development applications through the Planning Portal.....	101
9.10	Delegated Authority Approvals as at end of February 2021.....	104
9.11	Projects and Works Report Update - March 2021	107
10	NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE	118
	Nil	
11	CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED SESSION....	119
12	OPEN COUNCIL - REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL	121

12.1	Construction of Houseboat and Rowing Boat Mooring area, Wentworth Riverfront - PT2021/05	121
12.2	Plant Replacement - Approval of Tenders for Replacement of Plant 65 - Road Sweeper	122
12.3	Wentworth Sporting Complex Cool Room - Approval of Tenders for Disposal	123
12.4	Wentworth Aerodrome Upgrade - Stage 2 - Bitumen, Asphalt and Line Marking Works PT2021/06	124
13	CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING	125
	NEXT MEETING	125

1 OPENING OF MEETING

THE MAYOR REQUESTS THAT THE GENERAL MANAGER MAKES
ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING THE LIVE-STREAMING OF THE MEETING.

2 PRAYER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

3 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 17 February 2021 be confirmed as
circulated.



WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

17 FEBRUARY 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	OPENING OF MEETING	1
2	PRAYER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	1
3	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE	1
4	DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS	1
5	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	1
6	OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS	3
6.1	Outstanding matters from previous meetings	3
6.2	Wentworth Transfer Station Opening Hours	4
7	MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS	5
7.1	Mayoral Report	5
8	REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES	6
8.1	Internal Audit & Risk Management Committee	6
9	REPORTS TO COUNCIL	7
9.1	General Manager's Report	7
9.2	Call for Motions Murray Darling Association National Conference and Annual General Meeting	8
9.3	2020 Western Division of Councils Annual Conference	9
9.4	Monthly Finance Report	10
9.5	Monthly Investment Report	11
9.6	Midway Loan Refinancing Options	12
9.7	Crown Land Improvement Fund Grants	13
9.8	AF003 Requests for Financial Assistance	14
9.9	'Our Town, Our Future - Dareton Revitalised' Draft Strategy	15
9.10	Delegated Authority Approvals as at end of January 2021	16
9.11	Emergency Water Carting to Pooncarie 2015 - 2020	17
9.12	Local Traffic Committee and Roads and Road Safety Meeting Updates	18
9.13	Projects and Works Report Update - February 2021	19
10	NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE	20
11	CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED SESSION	21
12	OPEN COUNCIL - REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL	23

12.1	Plant Replacement - Approval of Tenders for Replacement of Plant 630 & 430 - Tipping Truck and Trailer - VR2021/630 & 430	23
12.2	Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant - Extension of PT1819/19 RDG Electrical Construction of Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant Electrical & Process Control Upgrade	24
13	CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING	25
	NEXT MEETING	25

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer at 10:01AM

2 PRAYER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: Councillor Susan Nichols (Mayor)
Councillor Tim Elstone (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Greg Evans
Councillor Steve Heywood
Councillor Jane MacAllister
Councillor Don McKinnon (Via Video Conference)
Councillor Peter Nunan
Councillor Bill Wheeldon OAM

STAFF: Ken Ross (General Manager)
Matthew Carlin (Director Health and Planning)
Geoff Gunn (Director Roads and Engineering)
Simon Rule (Director Finance and Policy)
Gayle Marsden (Executive Assistant General Manager)
Chloe Horne (Business Support Officer)

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Councillor Tim Elstone requested a Leave of Absence from 19 to 28 February 2021.

Councillor Jane MacAllister requested a Leave of Absence from 15 to 17 March 2021.

Council Resolution

That Council grants the Leave of Absence Requests from Councillor Tim Elstone and Councillor Jane MacAllister.

Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. Wheeldon

CARRIED

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Councillor MacAllister declared a pecuniary interest in Item 12.1 as her partner is an employee of the recommended successful tender company.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 20 January 2021 be confirmed as circulated.

Council Resolution

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 20 January 2021 be confirmed as circulated.

Moved Cr. Wheeldon, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

The Mayor notified Council that herself and the General Manager will be flying to Cobar on Friday 19 February 2021 to attend the State Funeral of Former Mayor of Cobar, the late Lilliane Brady OAM. The Mayor acknowledged Lilliane's contribution to the Cobar community and Local Government over the last 40 years.

6 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

6.1 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

File Number: RPT/21/122

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

The Outstanding Matters report provides details of activities raised at previous Council meetings that remain outstanding.

Officer Recommendation

That Council notes the list of outstanding matters as at 10 February 2021.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the list of outstanding matters as at 10 February 2021.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Nunan

CARRIED

6.2 WENTWORTH TRANSFER STATION OPENING HOURS

File Number: RPT/21/65

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets
Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

Summary

At the December Ordinary Council Meeting Councillor Bill Wheeldon OAM requested that consideration be given to extending the current operating hours at the Wentworth Transfer Station on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Recommendation

That Council having considered the information presented in this report choose from one of the available options.

Council Resolution

That Council having considered the information presented in this report choose option (a) being, retain the current opening times

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Nunan

CARRIED

7 MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS

7.1 MAYORAL REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/856

Recommendation

That Council notes the information contained in the Mayoral report.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the information contained in the Mayoral report.

Moved Cr. Nichols, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

8.1 INTERNAL AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

File Number: RPT/21/75

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

A meeting of the Internal Audit & Risk Management Committee was held on 2 February 2021. The Minutes of the meeting are attached to this report for the information of Councillors.

The Committee has requested that the Reporting Officer seeks resolutions of Council on the following:

- approval of the Quarterly Budget Review Statement; and
- adoption of the amended Enterprise Risk Management Policy (attached) endorsed by the Committee.

The Committee has also requested Council notes:

- the quarterly Operational Plan progress report
- that a Risk Management Presentation was made to the Committee (attached)

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- a) Approves the variations to the 2020/21 Operational Plan adopted at the Council meeting on 24 June 2020.
- b) Adopts the amended Enterprise Risk Management Policy.
- c) Notes the quarterly progress report against the 2019/20 Operational Plan.
- d) Notes that a Risk Management Presentation was made to the Committee.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- a) Approves the variations to the 2020/21 Operational Plan adopted at the Council meeting on 24 June 2020.
- b) Adopts the amended Enterprise Risk Management Policy.
- c) Notes the quarterly progress report against the 2019/20 Operational Plan.
- d) Notes that a Risk Management Presentation was made to the Committee.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. Nunan

CARRIED

9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

9.1 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/848

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Chloe Horne - Business Support Officer

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

The General Manager's report details information pertaining to meetings attended and general information which are of public interest, and which have not been reported elsewhere in this agenda. Items of note in this report are:

1. OLG Circulars
Nil
2. Meetings
As listed
3. Upcoming meetings or events
As listed
4. Other items of note

Recommendation

That Council notes the information contained within the report from the General Manager.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the information contained within the report from the General Manager.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. Heywood

CARRIED

9.2 CALL FOR MOTIONS MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

File Number: RPT/21/27

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future
Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

The purpose of the Murray Darling Association is to provide effective representation of local government and communities at state and federal level in the management of Basin resources by exchanging information, facilitating debate, and seeking to influence government policy.

The 2021 Murray Darling Association National Conference and Annual General Meeting will be held in Wentworth on 17-19 May 2021. Call for Motions opened on 4 January 2021 and will close on 12 April 2021.

Recommendation

That Council:

- (a) Nominate motions to be put forward for the Murray Darling Association National Conference and Annual General Meeting; and
- (b) Consider the nominated motions at the March meeting of Council.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- (a) Nominate motions to be put forward for the Murray Darling Association National Conference and Annual General Meeting; and
- (b) Consider the nominated motions at the March meeting of Council.

Moved Cr. McKinnon, Seconded Cr. Heywood

CARRIED

Council nominated the following motions be considered at the March meeting of Council:

- (a) Council strongly advocate for the joining of Lake Cawndilla and the Darling River to supply water to the lower end of the Darling (i.e. Anabranch); and
- (b) The NSW Government prioritise connectivity through to the end of the system in all water sharing plans.

9.3 2020 WESTERN DIVISION OF COUNCILS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

File Number: RPT/21/99

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

The 2021 Western Division of Councils Annual Conference will be held from 19 - 21 April 2021 in Broken Hill. The focus of the Conference will be the Four Pillars of Sustainability – Human, Social, Economic and Environment.

Recommendation

That Council determines attendees to the 2021 Western Division of Council's Annual Conference.

Council Resolution

That Council determines that the General Manager and all Councillors, excluding Councillor Nunan and Councillor McKinnon, attend the 2021 Western Division of Council's Annual Conference.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. Wheeldon

CARRIED

9.4 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

File Number: RPT/21/41

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
Reporting Officer: Vanessa Lock - Finance Officer

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

Rates and Charges collections for the month of January 2021 were \$222,363.23. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 60.96%. For comparison purposes 60.45% of the levy had been collected at the end of January 2020. Council currently has \$29,531,112.55 in cash and investments.

Recommendation

That Council notes the monthly finance report.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the monthly finance report.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED

9.5 MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT

File Number: RPT/21/91

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Hodi Beauliv - Manager Finance

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

As at 31 January 2021 Council had \$18 million invested in term deposits and \$11,531,112.55 in other cash investments. Council received \$26,288.25 from its investments for the month of January 2021.

In January 2021 Council investments averaged a rate of return of 0.59% and it currently has \$9,165,513.01 of internal restrictions and \$15,926,633.16 of external restrictions.

Recommendation

That Council notes the monthly investment report.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the monthly investment report.

Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. Wheeldon

CARRIED

9.6 MIDWAY LOAN REFINANCING OPTIONS

File Number: RPT/21/67

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary**Recommendation**

That Council approves Option 3 from the National Australia Bank.

That Council delegates authority to the Mayor and General Manager to sign and affix the Council seal to any revised loan documentation if necessary.

Council Resolution

That Council approves Option 3 from the National Australia Bank.

That Council delegates authority to the Mayor and General Manager to sign and affix the Council seal to any revised loan documentation if necessary.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. Evans

CARRIED

Councillor Peter Nunan suggested that a motion be put forward for the 2021 Western Division of Council's Annual Conference, that Council "Demand that treasury loans (T-Corp) be freed up for use by Councils".

9.7 CROWN LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND GRANTS

File Number: RPT/21/93

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring , supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary**Recommendation**

- a) That Council accepts the grant for the Greater Murray Darling Junction Reserve project.
- b) That Council accepts the grant for the Pooncarie Racetrack project.
- c) That Council accepts the grant for the Willowbend Caravan Park project.
- d) That Council does not accept the low interest loan from Crown Lands for the Willowbend Caravan Park project.
- e) That Council borrow \$1,500,000 for the Willowbend Caravan Park project from the National Australia Bank.
- f) That Council delegates authority to the Mayor and the General Manager to sign the funding agreements and loan document, and to affix the Council Seal to any necessary documentation.

Council Resolution

- a) That Council accepts the grant for the Greater Murray Darling Junction Reserve project.
- b) That Council accepts the grant for the Pooncarie Racetrack project.
- c) That Council accepts the grant for the Willowbend Caravan Park project.
- d) That Council does not accept the low interest loan from Crown Lands for the Willowbend Caravan Park project.
- e) That Council borrow \$1,500,000 for the Willowbend Caravan Park project from the National Australia Bank.
- f) That Council delegates authority to the Mayor and the General Manager to sign the funding agreements and loan document, and to affix the Council Seal to any necessary documentation.

Moved Cr. McKinnon, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

9.8 AF003 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

File Number: RPT/21/66

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
Reporting Officer: Shenay Harris - Coordinator Finance and Policy

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

Council has provided an allocation of \$187,000.00 (inclusive of GST) for the 2020/21 financial year for the consideration by Council, for the funding of requests from the community for financial assistance. In this financial year, \$99,401.00 has been granted to a variety of organisations through the annual fees and charges "Exemptions from the Application" process. The total value of requests granted so far for this financial year totals \$10,173.30.

The total value of requests for this February 2021 funding application period totals \$14,571.93, which if granted in full, would leave a balance in the Donations, Contributions and Grants fund of \$62,853.77.

Recommendation

That Council having considered the current requests for financial assistance, makes appropriate recommendations on the level of funding to be provided to each of these applications, from the Donations, Contributions and Grants program.

Council Resolution

Council grants all the requests for financial assistance to be funded from the Donations, Contributions and Grants program.

Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. Heywood

CARRIED

9.9 'OUR TOWN, OUR FUTURE - DARETON REVITALISED' DRAFT STRATEGY

File Number: RPT/21/42

Responsible Officer: Matthew Carlin - Director Health and Planning

Responsible Division: Health and Planning

Reporting Officer: Michele Bos - Strategic Development Officer

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth is a vibrant, growing and thriving Shire

Strategy: 1.2 Encourage and support population growth and resident attraction

Summary

A strategy for Dareton has been prepared with the aim to revitalise the township whilst ensuring that future development of the urban area is well planned and sustainable for servicing the needs of the current and future community.

Currently titled 'Our Town, Our Future – Dareton Revitalised', the document is presented to Council seeking endorsement to proceed with exhibition of the draft document. It is proposed to exhibit the Strategy for a period of 28 days.

The draft Strategy can be viewed on Council's website under the Public Exhibitions section.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the draft 'Our Town, Our Future – Dareton Revitalised' Strategy for public exhibition for a period of 28 days in accordance with the Community Participation Plan.

Council Resolution

That Council endorses the draft 'Our Town, Our Future – Dareton Revitalised' Strategy for public exhibition for a period of 28 days in accordance with the Community Participation Plan.

Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. Elstone

CARRIED

9.10 DELEGATED AUTHORITY APPROVALS AS AT END OF JANUARY 2021

File Number: RPT/21/94

Responsible Officer: Matthew Carlin - Director Health and Planning

Responsible Division: Health and Planning

Reporting Officer: Kerrie Copley - Administration Officer

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth is a vibrant, growing and thriving Shire

Strategy: 1.1 Grow the potential for business and industry to develop and expand

Summary

For the month of January 2021, a total of 1 Development Application and 1 S4.55 Modification Application were determined under delegated authority by the Director Health and Planning.

The estimated value of the determined developments was \$11,000.00. This brings the year to date total to 1 Development Applications and 1 S4.55 Applications approved, with an estimated development value of \$11,000.00.

Recommendation

- a) That Council receives and notes the report for the month of January 2021.
- b) That Council publicly notifies, for the purposes of Schedule 1 Division 4 Section 20 (2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, the applications as listed in the attachment on the Wentworth Shire Council website.
- c) That a division be called in accordance with S375A of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*.

Council Resolution

That Council

- a) Receives and notes the report for the month of January 2021.
- b) That Council publicly notifies, for the purposes of Schedule 1 Division 4 Section 20 (2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, the applications as listed in the attachment on the Wentworth Shire Council website.
- c) That a division be called in accordance with S375A of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*.

Moved Cr. Elstone, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

In accordance with Section 375A of the Local Government Act the Mayor called for a division.

For the Motion : ***Clr.s Elstone, Evans, Heywood, MacAllister, McKinnon, Nichols, Nunan and Wheeldon.***

Against the Motion: ***Nil.***

9.11 EMERGENCY WATER CARTING TO POONCARIE 2015 - 2020

File Number: RPT/21/38

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Barbara George - Administration Officer, Roads and Engineering

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

At the 20 January 2021 Councillor MacAllister requested a report on Emergency Water carting to Pooncarie 2015-2020.

In 2015 Council commenced the installation of a ground water bore in Pooncarie in response to drought conditions. A number of businesses and residents on properties around Pooncarie who did not have access to treated water and relied on the Darling River or their rainwater tanks for their water reported drastically depleted supplies along with extremely poor quality making the water unfit for human consumption.

In response, the NSW Government approved funding for Council to assist with the bore installation and provide water deliveries to the businesses and residents in the area.

During the period July 2015 to March 2016 a total of 2,217,388 litres of water was carted which was fully subsidised by the NSW Government.

In July 2018 100% of New South Wales was declared in drought once again.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting of August 2018, Council resolved to:

- *provide potable water and cartage to drought affected households that do not have access to useable water.*

In January 2019, Council were advised by the NSW Government that financial assistance would be provided to Council to maintain essential supplies of water to the residents of the Pooncarie and Lower Darling Area. Further funding was forthcoming to a total of \$240,000.00, taking the timeframe of water delivery to the end of March 2020.

Recommendation

That Council notes the report.

Council Resolution

That Council:

- (a) Notes the report; and
- (b) The completed report including the bore information be tendered into evidence to the NSW Upper House Committee Inquiry into Rationale for, and impacts of, new dams and other water infrastructure in NSW within 21 days from the Inquiry.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Wheeldon

CARRIED

9.12 LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE AND ROADS AND ROAD SAFETY MEETING UPDATES

File Number: RPT/21/96

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Belinda Fitzgerald - Road Safety Officer

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

Summary

Councillors seek to be more involved with local traffic matters and establish relationships with legislated responsible organisations whom make decisions about our roads.

Recommendation

That Council Nominates representatives for Site Tours of Local Traffic Matters.

Motion

That Council Nominates representatives for Site Tours of Local Traffic Matters.

Moved Cr. Heywood, Seconded Cr. Wheeldon

Amendment

That Cr Heywoods motion be amended to

- a) Representatives of the existing Roads & Traffic Safety Committee, Councillor Susan Nichols, Councillor Bill Wheeldon, Councillor Steve Heywood and Councillor Tim Elstone; and
- b) The nominated representatives attend the Site Tours of Local Traffic Matters in May and November 2021.

Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

Resolution

That the amendment becomes the substantive motion.

That Council:

- (a) Nominates representatives from the existing Roads and Road Safety Committee, Councillor Susan Nichols, Councillor Bill Wheeldon, Councillor Steve Heywood and Councillor Tim Elstone; and
- (b) The nominated representatives attend the Site Tours of Local Traffic Matters in May and November 2021.

Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

9.13 PROJECTS AND WORKS REPORT UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2021

File Number: RPT/21/24

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Tarryn Kampman - Administration Officer

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

Summary

This report provides a summary of the projects and major works undertaken by the Roads and Engineering Department which have been completed during the month of January 2020.

Recommendation

That Council notes the major works undertaken for January and the scheduled works for February 2021.

Council Resolution

That Council notes the major works undertaken for January and the scheduled works for February 2021.

Moved Cr. Nunan, Seconded Cr. MacAllister

CARRIED

10 NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**10.1 SOLAR PANEL TIP PRICES**

Councillor Peter Nunan asked how much the landfill currently charges for solar panels as Mildura currently charges \$20.

10.2 WATER TOWER ART

Councillor Peter Nunan requested an investigation be conducted in regard to art on the Water Towers within the Shire.

10.3 2021 JUNCTION JUNK GARAGE SALE EVENT

Councillor Peter Nunan requested an investigation be conducted in regard to public interest of the 2021 Junction Junk Garage Sale Event, and that Council place an advertisement in the Sunraysia Daily.

10.4 DOGS IN DARETON

Councillor Peter Nunan requested that action be taken regarding the dogs roaming around Neilpo Street, Dareton.

10.5 UPDATE ON CURLWAA BOAT RAMP

Councillor Steve Heywood requested an update on the Curlwaa Boat Ramp repairs.

10.6 UPDATE ON CURLWAA BACKPACKERS

Councillor Steve Heywood requested an update on the Curlwaa Backpackers, specifically whether it is operational and if they are abiding by the conditions of the Development Application.

10.7 UPDATE ON CARAVAN PARK UPGRADE

Councillor Steve Heywood requested an update on the Caravan Park upgrade.

10.8 UPDATE ON THE WENTWORTH BOWLING GREEN

Councillor Steve Heywood requested an update on the Wentworth Bowling Green repairs.

10.9 TOUR OF PROJECT SITES

Councillor Steve Heywood requested that all Councillors be taken on a site tour of all projects within the Shire.

10.10 CHANGE OF COUNCIL MEETING VENUE

Councillor Bill Wheeldon requested that an alternate venue for future Ordinary Council Meetings be investigated, specifically in Wentworth.

11 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED SESSION

Despite the right of members of the public to attend meetings of a council, the council may choose to close to the public, parts of the meeting that involve the discussion or receipt of certain matters as prescribed under section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act.

With the exception of matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors) (10A(2)(a)), matters involving the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer (10A(2)(b)) or matters that would disclose a trade secret (10A(2)(d)(iii)), council must be satisfied that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

The Act requires council to close the meeting for only so much of the discussion as is necessary to preserve the relevant confidentiality, privilege or security being protected. (section 10B(1)(a))

Section 10A(4) of the Act provides that a council may allow members of the public to make representations to or at a meeting, before any part of the meeting is closed to the public, as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed.

Section 10B(4) of the Act stipulates that for the purpose of determining whether the discussion of a matter in an open meeting would be contrary to the public interest, it is irrelevant that:-

- (a) a person may misinterpret or misunderstand the discussion, or
- (b) the discussion of the matter may -
 - (i) cause embarrassment to the council or committee concerned, or to councillors or to employees of the council, or
 - (ii) cause a loss of confidence in the council or committee.

Recommendation

That Council adjourns into Closed Session, the recording of the meeting be suspended, and members of the press and public be excluded from the Closed Session, and that access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld unless declassified by separate resolution.

This action is taken in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993 as the items listed come within the following provisions:-:

12.1 Plant Replacement - Approval of Tenders for Replacement of Plant 630 & 430 - Tipping Truck and Trailer - VR2021/630 & 430. (RPT/21/97)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.2 Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant - Extension of PT1819/19 RDG Electrical Construction of Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant Electrical & Process Control Upgrade. (RPT/21/100)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the

Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

Council Resolution

That Council adjourns into Closed Session, the recording of the meeting be suspended, and members of the press and public be excluded from the Closed Session, and that access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld unless declassified by separate resolution.

Moved Cr. MacAllister, Seconded Cr. Nunan

CARRIED

Council moved into closed session at 11:05AM

At 11:06 am Councillor Jane MacAllister left the meeting.

At 11:09 am Councillor Jane MacAllister returned to meeting.

Council resumed into open session at 11:18AM

12 OPEN COUNCIL - REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL

12.1 PLANT REPLACEMENT - APPROVAL OF TENDERS FOR REPLACEMENT OF PLANT 630 & 430 - TIPPING TRUCK AND TRAILER - VR2021/630 & 430

File Number: RPT/21/97

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Allan Eastmond - Manager Works

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

The General Manager advised that Council accepts the tender from Mildura Truck Centre for the supply of one DAF FATCF530 Hercules Engineering Hardox Truck and Dog Trailer for the sum of \$351,888.90 inc GST.

12.2 GOL GOL WATER TREATMENT PLANT - EXTENSION OF PT1819/19 RDG ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION OF GOL GOL WATER TREATMENT PLANT ELECTRICAL & PROCESS CONTROL UPGRADE

File Number: RPT/21/100

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.1 Promote the efficient delivery of water supply, sewer and drainage services for the long term interests of future generations

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

The General Manager advised that Council approves an extension of \$550,000 ex GST to the contract for the Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant (GGWTP) Electrical / Process Control Upgrade Project, Tender No. PT1819/19 with RDG Electrical Mildura.

13 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The Mayor closed the meeting at 11:19AM

NEXT MEETING

17 March 2021

.....
CHAIR

6 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

6.1 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

File Number: RPT/21/152

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
 Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
 Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

The Outstanding Matters report provides details of activities raised at previous Council meetings that remain outstanding.

Officer Recommendation

That Council notes the list of outstanding matters as at 9 March 2021.

Additional Information

Nil

Attachments

1. Outstanding Actions as at 9 March 2021 [↓](#)

Outstanding Division: Ordinary Council Committee: Officer: Outstanding Action Items Report				Date From: Date To: Printed: Tuesday, 9 March 2021 4:18:58 PM
Meeting	Item	Title	Item	Action Record (latest first)
Ordinary Council 15/07/2020	10.4	Update on flats at Dareton	Cr Melisa Hederics requested an update on a clean-up order that has been issued to the owner of flats in Dareton.	9 Mar 2021 - 2:02 PM - <i>Matthew Carlin</i> The owner of the units has been in contact with Council. He is moving forward with renovating 2 of the units over the coming weeks and will be engaging a local real estate agent to manage the tenancies. The owner has stated he will be paying for additional bins to assist with the cleanliness of the property.
Ordinary Council 16/12/2020	10.5	Hard Waste Collection	Cr Susan Nichols requested a hard waste collection in the New Year.	9 Mar 2021 - 3:34 PM - <i>Simon Rule</i> Discussions ongoing with potential contractors as they are struggling to quote for the job.
Ordinary Council 20/01/2021	10.1	RSL Rooms	Cr Bill Wheelodon requested Council investigate the free holding of the RSL rooms.	9 Mar 2021 - 3:34 PM - <i>Gayle Marsden</i> Investigation is continuing.
Ordinary Council 20/01/2021	10.4	Wentworth Sporting Complex Fire Services	Cr Bill Wheelodon advised that the Wentworth Sporting Complex fire services have no water and requested that Council rectify this issue.	4 Mar 2021 - 3:11 PM - <i>Tarryn Kampman</i> Building Maintenance Officer has commenced looking into costs.
Ordinary Council 17/02/2021	10.1	Solar Panel Tip Prices	Councillor Peter Nunan asked how much the landfill currently charges for solar panels as Mildura currently charges \$20.	9 Mar 2021 - 2:05 PM - <i>Simon Rule</i> Council does not currently have a separate charge for Solar Panels. They are charged at the commercial rate of \$106 per tonne. Further investigations under way to determine the need for a separate charge.
Ordinary Council 17/02/2021	10.3	2021 Junction Junk Garage Sale Event	Councillor Peter Nunan requested an investigation be conducted in regard to public interest of the 2021 Junction Junk Garage Sale Event, and that Council place an advertisement in the Sunraysia Daily.	9 Mar 2021 - 2:50 PM - <i>Chloe Horne</i> Junction Junk Garage Sale Event is proceeding. Action Complete.

Outstanding		Division: Committee: Officer:		Ordinary Council	Date From: Date To:	Printed: Tuesday, 9 March 2021 4:18:58 PM
Outstanding Action Items Report						
Ordinary Council 17/02/2021	10.5	Update on Curlwaa Boat Ramp	Councillor Steve Heywood requested an update on the Curlwaa Boat Ramp repairs.	9 Mar 2021 - 2:58 PM - Tarryn Kampman Contractor has confirmed that works will commence May 2021 and works will take four days.		
Ordinary Council 17/02/2021	10.7	Update on Caravan Park Upgrade	Councillor Steve Heywood requested an update on the Caravan Park upgrade.	9 Mar 2021 - 3:48 PM - Simon Rule Report included in agenda for March Council meeting. – Action Complete		
Ordinary Council 17/02/2021	10.8	Update on the Wentworth Bowling Green	Councillor Steve Heywood requested an update on the Wentworth Bowling Green repairs.	8 Mar 2021 - 10:53 AM - Tarryn Kampman On completion of the Buronga Riverfront the contractor will undertake repair works on the bowling green.		

6.2 WILLOWBEND CARAVAN PARK UPDATE

File Number: RPT/21/134

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Objective: 2.0 Wentworth is a desirable Shire to visit, live, work and invest

Strategy: 2.5 Maintain/create desirable open spaces and recreation facilities

Summary

This report responds to an action raised from the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 February 2021, item 10.7.

At that meeting Councillor Steve Heywood requested an update on the Willowbend Caravan Park project.

Recommendation

That Council notes the report.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the Willowbend Caravan Park project.

Background

This report responds to an action raised from the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 February 2021, item 10.7.

At that meeting Councillor Steve Heywood requested an update on the Willowbend Caravan Park project.

Report Detail

Council was last briefed on the Caravan Park in October 2020, since that time the following activities have been undertaken:

- Hauling of surplus fill from the Aerodrome redevelopment has continued
- Works have commenced on the new Camp Kitchen including the following:
 - Building delivered to site
 - Concrete slab laid
 - Pavilion installed
- Completion of the Office and Residence
- Works commenced on detailed constructions plans including
 - Drainage
 - Roads
 - Retaining wall
 - Water and sewer

- Fire safety
- Internal low voltage power to sites

At the start of March, the following activities were planned to start:

- Completion of the Camp Kitchen including the following:
 - Connection to services
 - Water
 - Electricity
 - Gas
 - Stormwater
 - Minor modifications to the hut to ensure compliance with disability access
- Lodgment of Development Application for demolition of old amenities block and installation of new amenities facilities and the installation of new cabins.
- Tender documentation

The following is out of scope of the above works as further investigation is required:

- Recreational facilities
- Landscape design

Council has also been successful with a \$1,000,000 grant through the Crown Land Improvement Fund to help fund the project. The remainder of the project will be funded via a loan as approved at the February 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Attachments

Nil

7 MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS

7.1 MAYORAL REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/857

Summary

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of meetings, conferences and appointments undertaken by Mayor Nichols for the period of 8 February 2021 – 5 March 2021.

Recommendation

That Council notes the information contained in the Mayoral report.

Report

The following table lists the meetings attended by Mayor Nichols for the period of 8 February 2021 – 5 March 2021.

Date	Meeting	Location
8 Feb 2021	Water Inquiry Meeting with Central Darling Shire Council General Manager, Greg Hill	Video Conference
8 Feb 2021	Water Inquiry Workshop	Wentworth & Video Conference
9 Feb 2021	WaterNSW Western Weirs Briefing	Video Conference
9 Feb 2021	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
11 Feb 2021	Webinar on Water Sharing and Flood Plain Harvesting in NSW	Video Conference
16 Feb 2021	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
17 Feb 2021	Pre-Meeting Ordinary Council Meeting	Buronga
17 Feb 2021	Ordinary Council Meeting	Buronga
18 Feb 2021	Wentworth Shire Liquor Accord Annual General Meeting	Gol Gol
19 Feb 2021	Cobar Mayor Lilliane Brady's State Funeral	Cobar
23 Feb 2021	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
24 Feb 2021	Far West Joint Organisation Interim Executive Officer & Albury Mayor Kevin Mack	Wentworth
25 Feb 2021	Far West Joint Organisation Board Meeting	Video Conference
1 March 2021	Meeting with Murray Darling Association Chief Executive Officer, Emma Bradbury	Wentworth
2 March 2021	Murray Darling Association Region 4 Ordinary Meeting	Buronga
3 March 2021	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
4 March 2021	Carramar Drive User Group Meeting	Gol Gol

Attachments

Nil

8 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Nil

9 REPORTS TO COUNCIL

9.1 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

File Number: RPT/20/849

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Chloe Horne - Business Support Officer

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

The General Manager's report details information pertaining to meetings attended and general information which are of public interest, and which have not been reported elsewhere in this agenda. Items of note in this report are:

1. OLG Circulars
Circular 21-01
2. Meetings
As listed
3. Upcoming meetings or events
As listed
4. Other items of note

Recommendation

That Council notes the information contained within the report from the General Manager.

Detailed Report

1. OLG Circulars

1.1 OLG Circular 21-01

Transitioning Back to In-Person Council and Committee Meetings and Consultation on Proposed Changes Allowing Remote Attendance at Meetings

- The Regulation will be amended while OLG consults on the proposed amendments to the Model Meeting Code to allow Councils to give approval for individual (but not all) Councillors to attend meetings remotely. The amendments will be temporary and will expire on **31 December 2021**. The Regulation amendments will not allow whole Councils to meet remotely by audio-visual link.
- Under the Regulation amendments, the decision to permit Councillors to attend and participate in meetings remotely by audio-visual link will be one that is at each Council's discretion. Councils should only give approval for Councillors to attend meetings by audio-visual link in exceptional circumstances, for example, because the Councillor is prevented from attending the meeting due to illness, disability, carer responsibilities, a natural disaster or because the Councillor is away from the local area on Council related business.
- From **26 March 2021**, Councils will once again be required under section 10 of the Act to permit members of the public to attend meetings in person, subject to the requirements of any Public Health Order in force at the time and social distancing

requirements. Councils can limit the number of members of the public attending meetings to comply with the Public Health Order and to ensure appropriate social distancing.

- As of **12 February 2021**, the number of persons permitted to attend Council and committee meetings in addition to Councillors and staff under the *Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order 2021* (the Public Health Order) has been increased. Up to 25 persons may attend meetings. Councils can permit more than 25 persons to attend meetings provided the size of the meeting venue is sufficient to ensure there is at least 2 square metres of space for each person at the meeting venue. Councillors and Council staff are not to be counted when calculating the space available for each person at the meeting venue and the number of persons who are attending a meeting.
- The number of persons permitted to attend meeting venues under the Public Health Order is the **maximum permissible**. Councils should continue to ensure appropriate social distancing is practiced at meetings and should undertake their own risk assessment of meeting venues and apply whatever COVID mitigation strategies may be necessary to ensure appropriate social distancing is practiced at meetings.
- Where Councils are required to limit the number of members of the public attending meetings, they should consider livestreaming their meetings to ensure excluded members of the public can view them in real time.

2. Meetings

Following is a list of meetings or events attended by the General Manager for the period of 8 February 2021 – 5 March 2021.

Date	Meeting	Location
8 Feb 2021	Water Inquiry Meeting with Central Darling Shire Council General Manager, Greg Hill	Video Conference
8 Feb 2021	Water Inquiry Workshop	Wentworth & Video Conference
8 Feb 2021	Water Inquiry Witness Briefing	Phone Conference
9 Feb 2021	Far West Joint Organisation General Manager Meeting	Video Conference
9 Feb 2021	WaterNSW Western Weirs Briefing	Video Conference
9 Feb 2021	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
10 Feb 2021	Transgrid Meeting	Wentworth
10 Feb 2021	Parliament Hearing – Inquiry into the Rationale for, and Impact of, New Dams and other Water Infrastructure in NSW	Broken Hill
11 Feb 2021	Webinar on Water Sharing and Flood Plain Harvesting in NSW	Video Conference
16 Feb 2021	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
16 Feb 2021	Far West Joint Organisation General Manager Meeting	Video Conference
17 Feb 2021	Pre-Meeting Ordinary Council Meeting	Buronga
17 Feb 2021	Ordinary Council Meeting	Buronga
18 Feb 2021	Ordinary Council Meeting Debrief	Wentworth
19 Feb 2021	Cobar Mayor Lilliane Brady's State Funeral	Cobar

23 Feb 2021	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth
24 Feb 2021	Far West Joint Organisation Interim Executive Officer & Albury Mayor Kevin Mack	Wentworth
25 Feb 2021	NSW Agriculture Commissioner Meeting	Wentworth
25 Feb 2021	Far West Joint Organisation Board Meeting	Video Conference
1 March 2021	Meeting with Murray Darling Association Chief Executive Officer, Emma Bradbury	Wentworth
2 March 2021	Murray Darling Association Region 4 Ordinary Meeting	Buronga & Video Conference
3 March 2021	Mayoral Meeting	Wentworth

3. Events

Following is a list of upcoming events, conferences or committee meetings, including out of region meetings where the Shire has been requested to attend in an official capacity.

Date	Meeting	Proposed Attendees	Location
11 March 2021	George Gordon Sporting Complex User Group Meeting	Mayor, & Cr Nunan	Dareton
18 March 2021	Wentworth Shire Health Interagency Meeting	Cr MacAllister	Buronga
22 March 2021	Murray Darling Association Board Meeting	Cr MacAllister	Video Conference
23 March 2021	Mayoral Meeting	Mayor, Deputy Mayor & General Manager	Wentworth
24 March 2021	Staff Consultative Committee / Workplace Health and Safety Committee Meeting	General Manager	Wentworth
26 March 2021	Far West Joint Organisation General Managers Meeting	General Manager	Video Conference
30 March 2021	Mayoral Meeting	Mayor, Deputy Mayor & General Manager	Wentworth
1 April 2021	Magenta Artists Art Exhibition	Mayor	Mourquong
6 April 2021	Mayoral Meeting	Mayor, Deputy Mayor & General Manager	Wentworth

4. Other items of note

Nil

Attachments

1. Circular 21-01 [↓](#)



Office of
Local Government

Circular to Councils

Circular Details	21-01 / 9 March 2021 / A754070
Previous Circular	20-37 <i>Status of special COVID-19 measures</i>
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / All council staff
Contact	Council Governance / 02 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Council to Implement / Response to OLG

Transitioning back to in-person council and committee meetings and consultation on proposed changes allowing remote attendance at meetings

What's new or changing

- The "prescribed period" for the purposes of section 747A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) during which the requirement for councillors and members of the public to attend meetings is satisfied if the meeting is held in whole or in part remotely using audio visual links, expires on **25 March 2021**.
- The Government recognises that most councils have successfully implemented remote attendance by councillors at meetings by audio-visual link during the COVID-19 pandemic and that some councils have called for the option of remote attendance to be made available to them on an ongoing basis to encourage greater diversity of representation.
- The Office of Local Government (OLG) has issued a consultation paper, *Remote Attendance by Councillors at Council Meetings*, to seek the views of councils and others on proposed amendments to the *Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW* (Model Meeting Code) to allow councils to permit **individual** councillors to attend meetings remotely by audio-visual link in certain circumstances. The proposed new provisions will not be mandatory, and councils will be able to choose whether to include them in their adopted codes of meeting practice.
- The consultation paper is available on OLG's website at www.olg.nsw.gov.au. Submissions are due by COB **3 May 2021**.
- While OLG is consulting on the proposed amendments to the Model Meeting Code, amendments will be made to the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (the Regulation) to allow councils to permit individual (but not all) councillors to attend meetings by audio-visual link. The amendments will be temporary and will expire on **31 December 2021**. Further guidance will be provided on the interim arrangements when the Regulation amendment is made.

What this will mean for your council

- The Regulation will be amended while OLG consults on the proposed amendments to the Model Meeting Code to allow councils to give approval for individual (but not all) councillors to attend meetings remotely. The amendments will be temporary and will expire on **31 December 2021**. The Regulation amendments will not allow whole councils to meet remotely by audio-visual link.
- Under the Regulation amendments, the decision to permit councillors to attend and participate in meetings remotely by audio-visual link will be one that is at

Office of Local Government
5 O'Keefe Avenue NOWRA NSW 2541
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541
T 02 4428 4100 F 02 4428 4199 TTY 02 4428 4209
E olg@olg.nsw.gov.au W www.olg.nsw.gov.au ABN 20 770 707 468

each council's discretion. Councils should only give approval for councillors to attend meetings by audio-visual link in exceptional circumstances, for example, because the councillor is prevented from attending the meeting due to illness, disability, carer responsibilities, a natural disaster or because the councillor is away from the local area on council related business.

- From **26 March 2021**, councils will once again be required under section 10 of the Act to permit members of the public to attend meetings in person, subject to the requirements of any Public Health Order in force at the time and social distancing requirements. Councils can limit the number of members of the public attending meetings to comply with the Public Health Order and to ensure appropriate social distancing.
- As of **12 February 2021**, the number of persons permitted to attend council and committee meetings in addition to councillors and staff under the *Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order 2021* (the Public Health Order) has been increased. Up to 25 persons may attend meetings. Councils can permit more than 25 persons to attend meetings provided the size of the meeting venue is sufficient to ensure there is at least 2 square metres of space for each person at the meeting venue. Councillors and council staff are not to be counted when calculating the space available for each person at the meeting venue and the number of persons who are attending a meeting.
- The number of persons permitted to attend meeting venues under the Public Health Order is the **maximum permissible**. Councils should continue to ensure appropriate social distancing is practiced at meetings and should undertake their own risk assessment of meeting venues and apply whatever COVID mitigation strategies may be necessary to ensure appropriate social distancing is practiced at meetings.
- Where councils are required to limit the number of members of the public attending meetings, they should consider livestreaming their meetings to ensure excluded members of the public can view them in real time.

Key points

- OLG is seeking the views of councils and others on the proposed amendments to the Model Meeting Code.
- If adopted by councils, under the proposed new provisions, councils will be able to give approval for individual councillors to attend a meeting remotely by audio-visual link where the councillor is prevented from attending the meeting because of ill health, disability, carer responsibilities, natural disaster or, on a limited number of occasions in each year, because they are absent from the local area due to a prior work commitment.
- The proposed new provisions will not be mandatory, and councils can choose whether to include them in their adopted codes of meeting practice.
- Submissions may be made to olg@olg.nsw.gov.au, labelled 'Remote attendance at council and committee meetings' and marked to the attention of OLG's Council Governance Team.
- Submissions should be made before COB **3 May 2021**.

Where to go for further information

- More information on the current Public Health Order is available [here](#).
- The *Remote Attendance by Councillors at Council Meetings* consultation paper is available on OLG's website at www.olg.nsw.gov.au.

Office of Local Government
5 O'Keefe Avenue NOWRA NSW 2541
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541
T 02 4428 4100 F 02 4428 4199 TTY 02 4428 4209
E olg@olg.nsw.gov.au W www.olg.nsw.gov.au ABN 20 770 707 468

- Further guidance will be provided on the interim Regulations allowing councillors to attend meetings remotely once they are made.
- For further information please contact the Council Governance Team on 02 4428 4100 or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.



Tim Hurst
Deputy Secretary
Local Government, Planning and Policy

Office of Local Government
5 O'Keefe Avenue NOWRA NSW 2541
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541
T 02 4428 4100 **F** 02 4428 4199 **TTY** 02 4428 4209
E olg@olg.nsw.gov.au **W** www.olg.nsw.gov.au **ABN** 20 770 707 468

9.2 ATTENDANCE AND MOTIONS AT THE MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION 77TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

File Number: RPT/21/128

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets
Strategy: 3.5 Recognise the importance of a healthy Murray-Darling River system

Summary

The Murray Darling Association's 77th National Conference and Annual General Meeting is being held from the 16–19 May 2021 in Wentworth. The focus of the Conference is, 'Connectivity: Connecting Council and Catchments'. Traditionally Council nominates its Murray Darling Association representatives to attend the Conference and submits relevant motions for consideration.

Recommendation

That Council:

- (a) Determines attendees to the Murray Darling Association's 77th National Conference and Annual General Meeting from 16–19 May 2021; and
- (b) Determines motions to be submitted at the Annual General Meeting by 12 April 2021.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to consider who should attend the Murray Darling Association's 75th National Conference and Annual General Meeting, and determine the motions to be submitted by 12 April 2021.

Report

The Murray Darling Association's 77th National Conference and Annual General Meeting is being held from 16–19 May 2021 in Wentworth. The focus of the Conference this year is 'Connectivity: Connecting Council and Catchments'.

Traditionally Council nominates its Murray Darling Association representatives to attend the Conference and submits relevant motions for consideration. Wentworth Shire Council is entitled to two votes at the Annual General Meeting. The cost of attendance is \$699 which includes Civic Reception, Study Tour of Menindee Lakes, Gala Dinner and two day conference. Council's three delegates are attending at no charge.

Motions for the Annual General Meeting must be received by 12 April 2021. At the February Meeting of Council, the following motions were nominated for consideration:

- (a) Council strongly advocate for the joining of Lake Cawndilla and the Darling River to supply water to the lower end of the Darling (i.e. Anabranch); and
- (b) The NSW Government prioritise connectivity through to the end of the system in all water sharing plans.

Council is requested to nominate delegates to attend the MDA 77th National Conference and Annual General Meeting being held from the 16–19 May 2021 in Wentworth and to note that motions for the Annual General Meeting must be submitted by 21 April 2021.

Attachments

1. Invitation for the Murray Darling Association 77th National Conference and Annual General Meeting [↓](#)

77th National Conference & AGM Connectivity: Connecting Councils & Catchments

16-19 May 2021

You are invited to register and attend the Murray Darling Association's **77th National Conference and AGM** to be held on **16 - 19 May 2021**.

Themed *Connectivity: Connecting Councils and Catchments*, this exciting event will bring together leaders and decision makers from across the Murray-Darling Basin.

This hybrid event will provide a range of attendance options. Meeting in Wentworth will provide those rich opportunities to reconnect with each other, while full digital connectivity will ensure that all options are covered seamlessly in the event of a Covid-19 interruption.

With so many events held online in 2020 we know that the towns, regions and countries emerging quickest and strongest are those with innovative, connected local leadership.

It's no surprise then that local government and the communities of the Murray Darling Basin are well placed to adapt and forge ahead in 2021 - and beyond. Basin councils have, after all, spent years building connections across catchments and communities.

With our rivers, our borders and even our attitudes increasingly fragmented, clever councils recognise the importance of innovation to restore and build connectivity.

Connectivity of communities is essential to our people. In the same way, a healthy river system must have connectivity of flows. There is no future of a dry system.

The MDA's 77th National Conference & AGM is ***your opportunity*** to be part of the solution – to join the conversation, inform future policy and engage with the innovators, scientists, educators and leaders of our time.

Join us in Wentworth, where the mighty rivers connect; where local, technical and political leaders will come together to tackle the big issues of the Basin and forge a future of connected councils and catchments.

Registrations are now open for you to attend this unmissable event. *Early bird offer is available until 31 March 2021.*

We look forward to seeing you there.

WHEN

16 May 2021 2:30 pm - 19 May 2021 4:30 pm

E. Australia Time

WHERE

Wentworth, New South Wales
(Virtual Conference passes also available)

REGISTER BY

15 May 2021

9.3 SLATTERY & JOHNSON REPORT

File Number: RPT/21/129

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
 Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
 Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets
 Strategy: 3.5 Recognise the importance of a healthy Murray-Darling River system

Summary

At the 19 August 2020 Ordinary Meeting of Council, it was resolved to support a Floodplain Harvesting Project proposal from Slattery & Johnson. Council is now in receipt of the final report.

Recommendation

That Council notes the Slattery & Johnson report.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide to Council the final report from Slattery & Johnson "Floodplain Harvesting Report".

Background

The following was received from Slattery & Johnson and tabled at the 19 August 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting.

We specialise in water policy and management in the Murray-Darling Basin.

Floodplain harvesting in the northern Murray-Darling Basin reduces the flow of water downstream and therefore reduces water available for towns, the environment and other water users.

Floodplain harvesting is not regulated, licenced, monitored or measured in NSW. The NSW government intends to regulate floodplain harvesting by issuing floodplain harvesting licences in 2021. The NSW government admits there has been significant growth in floodplain harvesting. It claims that licensing will return floodplain harvesting volumes to legal limits set under NSW and Commonwealth legislation.

We have been engaged by Southern Riverina Irrigators to map and estimate on-farm storages in Northern NSW. We are seeking a financial contribution from local councils and community groups for work in addition to the mapping;

- *a background and summary of NSW floodplain harvesting policy and implementation,*
- *a review of research and reports related to floodplain harvesting,*
- *maps of on-farm storages,*
- *an estimate of the volume of on-farm storages, and*
- *estimates of water taken by floodplain harvesting and other take from floodplains.*

This project will provide an alternate source of information to help communities scrutinise the process. It will help build understanding among communities and organisations about floodplain harvesting, how the NSW government intends to implement the policy, and how floodplain harvesting will be treated in relation to the Sustainable Diversion Limit.

At the 19 August 2020 Ordinary Meeting of Council it was resolved to support the Floodplain Harvesting Project proposal from Slattery & Johnson.

On 12 November 2020 Slattery & Johnson conducted a workshop with Councillors at the Midway Centre.

The attached report is a culmination of Slattery & Johnson investigations.

Attachments

1. Slattery & Johnson Floodplain Harvesting Report [↓](#)

Floodplain water harvesting in
the Northern New South Wales Murray-
Darling Basin
February 2021



Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

Contributors

This project was made possible with the support of the following groups and Individuals:

Tim and Bridget Goulding (Dairy farmers Northern Victoria); Jo and Bruce Wearing



Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

Table of Contents

Definitions & Acronyms.....	4
Summary.....	5
Background.....	6
Floodplain water harvesting policy	7
On-farm storages and floodplain water harvesting.....	10
The NSW government floodplain water harvesting policy	11
Licensing and take	11
Temporary storages.....	12
Rainfall runoff	13
Accounting rules	13
Estimates of floodplain water harvesting.....	15
On-farm storage numbers and capacity	16
Method	16
Results.....	20
Conclusion.....	26
Appendix 1: Technical methodology.....	27
GIS analysis.....	28
Calculating volume.....	29
References.....	30

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

Definitions & Acronyms

AHD	Australian Height Datum (metres)
BDL	Baseline Diversion Limit
Cap	The legislative requirement to limit surface water extractions to the level of development at 1 July 1994
DEM	Digital Elevation Model
DPIE	NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
DPI – W	Department of Primary Industries – Water (predecessor to DPIE)
ESLT	Environmentally Sustainable Diversion Limit
LiDAR	Light Detection and Radar
MDBA	Murray-Darling Basin Authority
MDBC	Murray-Darling Basin Commission (predecessor to the MDBA)
MinCO	Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council
Plan limit	The annual average long-term extraction limit specified in NSW Water Sharing Plans
QGIS	Quantum Geographic Information System
Permanent storage	Storages designated to store floodplain water harvesting, fitted with a storage meter.
Rainfall Runoff Harvesting	Rainfall runoff refers to runoff from developed areas resulting from direct rainfall. It does not include flood water that has broken out from the banks of rivers and creeks.
SDL	Sustainable Diversion Limit
Tailwater drain	Trench or channel that collects runoff from an irrigation field
Temporary storage	Surge areas, field storage and purpose-built dams that are used to hold water temporarily.
WofS	Water Observations from Space

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

Summary

The Murray-Darling Basin Cap (Cap) is one of the foundations of the water reforms in the Murray-Darling Basin. The Cap limits extractions to the level of development in place on 1 July 1994.

For more than 25 years floodplain water harvesting has been recognised by governments as a major threat to the Cap, the environment, downstream communities and downstream entitlements.

The NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy defines floodplain harvesting as:

...the collection, extraction or impoundment of water flowing across floodplains, including rainfall runoff and overbank flow,

and states that for the purposes of the policy:

...'floodplain' means any area of land designated as a floodplain under the Water Management Act 2000 or the Water Act 1912,

Floodplain water harvesting is a legislated form of extraction under the Cap. However, it has never been regulated, measured or controlled in NSW, nor accounted for under the Cap.

The NSW Government acknowledges that there has been a growth in take by floodplain water harvesting. The government intends to license it based on on-farm storage capacity by July 2021, claiming that the licensed volumes will reduce extractions to the Cap.

There is a strong correlation between the capacity of on-farm storages and the amount of floodplain water harvesting.

This project mapped on-farm storages and calculated their capacity in the five northern NSW valleys where floodplain water harvesting licences will be issued. The capacity of on-farm storages increased by 142% (or 2.4 times) between 1994 and 2020, from 574 gigalitres in 1993/94, to 1,395 gigalitres in 2020. The number of on-farm storages has increased from 400 in 1988, to 1,833 in 2020.

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

Background

When the major rivers of the Northern Murray-Darling Basin flow onto their lower floodplains they break up into thousands of smaller rivers, creeks, cowals, warrambools, flood runners and billabongs. One of these is the designated river. The floodplains of the Northern Basin make up a vast interconnected network of these streams. Floodplain water harvesting is the take of water from these floodplains.

Despite it being a large proportion of water taken for irrigation in the NSW part of the Northern Murray-Darling Basin it has never been regulated, measured or reported.

The NSW government intends to license and regulate floodplain water harvesting by July 2021.ⁱ Extraction will be accounted for under a water access licence, basic landholder right or licence exemption, ensuring that it is consistent with the *Water Management Act 2000*.ⁱⁱ

The amount of water taken by floodplain water harvesting will be measured and the volume distributed, after it is licensed. Owners of floodplain water harvesting licences will be able to be compensated for these new licences, should they be reduced in future.ⁱⁱⁱ

Floodplain water harvesting has never been licensed, measured or monitored in NSW. On the 24th of March 2020, Helen Dalton, the NSW Member for Murray, asked Melinda Pavey, the Minister for Water, Property and Housing, in the NSW Parliament:

What has been the volume of water extracted through floodplain harvesting in each financial year between 1993-94 and 2018-19?^{iv}

The Minister replied:

There is currently very limited data on the volume of water that has been extracted through floodplain harvesting in New South Wales because such volumes have not been required to be reported by landholders.^v

At a public meeting in Dubbo on 16th March 2018 an officer of the NSW water department acknowledged that the volume of water taken by floodplain water harvesting had been:

...grossly underestimated, ...there is currently no monitoring of floodplain harvesting diversions.^{vi}

This report:

- Provides a background and summary of the NSW floodplain water harvesting policy and its implementation,
- Reviews research and reports related to floodplain water harvesting,

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

- Provides a map of on-farm storages on the floodplains of the NSW part of the Northern Murray-Darling Basin and the capacity of those storages.

Floodplain water harvesting policy

The NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy states that:

For the purposes of this policy, 'floodplain' means any area of land designated as a floodplain under the WM Act [Water Management Act 2000] or the Water Act 1912. The policy applies to floodplain harvesting activities on properties where all or part of that property lies within the designated floodplain (p4).^{vii}

The policy defines floodplain harvesting as:

...the collection, extraction or impoundment of water flowing across floodplains, including rainfall runoff and overbank flow, but excluding the taking of:

- *water under a water access licence that is not a floodplain harvesting access licence*
- *water under a basic landholder right, including water taken under a harvestable right*
- *water under an applicable water access licence exemption under the WM Act*
- *used irrigation water (p 4).^{viii}*

For more than 25 years governments have known that floodplain water harvesting is a risk to downstream water supplies.

In 1995, the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council (MinCo) agreed to place a Cap on extractions at the 1993/94 level of development. NSW is obliged to keep surface water take under the Cap.^{ix}

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) stated that:

floodplain waterharvesting is perceived as an issue of Basin wide concern. A number of consultative management planning exercises are presently underway to examine and address overall floodplain management issues including floodplain harvesting.^x

However, floodplain water harvesting was not initially included in Cap. Governments intended to deal with it later.^{xi}

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

In 1995, a report to MinCo stated:

the capacity of on-farm storage on irrigation properties is the key factor determining how much use an irrigator can make of unregulated and off-allocation flows. In the north of the Basin the capacity of on-farm storages has more than doubled over the last five years to a value of 1,150 GL.^{xii}

In 2000 the Murray-Darling Basin Commission undertook a review of the operation of the Cap. It identified that not including floodplain water harvesting within the Cap was creating inequity between water users:

there are several more recently identified equity issues (floodplain and overland flows and diversions, farm dams and tree plantations) also requiring attention.^{xiii}

The Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council agreed to all the recommendations in the report, including that:

diversions from floodplain and overland flows be included in Cap accounting arrangements as a matter of priority.^{xiv}

The recommendation has not been implemented. Floodplain water harvesting has not been measured or licensed.

In about 2003, a Policy Advice from the NSW Government to Water Management Committees said:

The Water Act 1912 provided powers to license floodplain harvesting. However this was never applied as there was generally no requirement to restrict total overall water extractions or off- allocation diversions. Harvested floodplain water has been treated as a freely available bonus to a farmer's licensed entitlement.^{xv}

This 'freely available bonus' has grown to a considerable proportion of total take, as explained by a Senior Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) official:

...floodplain harvesting in the northern basin accounts for approximately 25% of all surface water diversions permitted under WSPs and the Basin Plan...^{xvi}

In 2003 the Murray-Darling Basin Commission published a review of threats to flows in the Murray River. The threats identified were climate change, re-forestation, groundwater extraction, return flows, farm dams, re-growth after bushfires, industry change and water trade. That work concluded:

the estimated impact on future flows, resulting from farm dam construction, based on the work of the MDBC, was found to be very high (1,000 to 3,000 gigalitres/annum) potentially greater than the combination of all other impacts.^{xvii}

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

In 2004, the National Water Initiative (NWI) identified the risk of growth in farm dams and floodplain water harvesting as potential impacts on water availability:

The Parties recognise that...land use change activities have potential to intercept significant volumes of surface and/or ground water now and in the future. Examples of such activities that are of concern, many of which are currently undertaken without a water access entitlement, include;

- i) farm dams and bores;*
- ii) intercepting and storing of overland flows; and*
- iii) large-scale plantation forestry.*

The Parties also recognise that if these activities are not subject to some form of planning and regulation, they present a risk to the future integrity of water access entitlements and the achievement of environmental objectives for water systems.^{xviii}

After signing the NWI, governments undertook a large body of work relating to the quantification of risks, including the growth of on-farm storages and floodplain harvesting.

In 2007 a report commissioned by the Murray-Darling Basin Commission noted:

More recently, there has been major private investment in large storages on irrigation farms. The total volume of these storages now rivals that of the headwaters dams, and they capture much of the water that enters the Basin's rivers downstream of the dams. This feature of water infrastructure in the Darling Basin sets it apart from the Murray.^{xix}

In 2010 a report under that program observed:

In 1995, the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council agreed to place a Cap on diversions. Although in principle this Cap includes floodplain harvesting, it was not a focus in the initial policy reforms. Landholders sought to quickly install floodplain storages before moratoriums were put in place. Governments have moved in response to this trend, but the response time between on-ground issues and respective government policy has allowed considerable development to proceed in the meantime.^{xx}

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

Despite growth in farm dams being identified as a risk, governments were instead encouraging the construction of farm dams:

With the availability of laser-levelling, and NSW water licence conditions that require the irrigator to dispose of excess irrigation water (tailwater) on-farm (since such water typically contains pesticides and nutrients), irrigators have been encouraged to lay out farms so that both the irrigation tailwater and rainfall runoff from cropped areas drains back to central points for pumping into on-farm storages. With increases in developed areas for more cropping, and to allow appropriate rotation of land, the potential for harvesting rainfall runoff has also grown (Stazic 2016).^{xxi,xxii}

In 2010, the MDBA published the *Guide to the proposed Basin Plan*. The Guide stated that floodplain water harvesting estimates were included in SDL volumes, whilst acknowledging that estimates of floodplain water harvesting were not as accurate as estimates of water extracted from rivers and streams.^{xxiii}

Small volumes of floodplain water harvesting were included in the Basin Plan (2012), (refer Table 2). Floodplain water harvesting volumes were not revised in the subsequent amendment to the Basin Plan in 2018.

On-farm storages and floodplain water harvesting

In the absence of data about take by floodplain water harvesting, NSW has had to estimate take by other means. DPIE explains its approach:

...we...used a capability assessment to consider the physical infrastructure used for floodplain harvesting and also the opportunity irrigators may have to access floodplain flows based on their location and climatic variability.^{xxiv}

DPIE identified a close relationship between floodplain water harvesting and the capacity to store water:

The volumetric capacity of on-farm storages is an essential piece of information to determine floodplain harvesting entitlements.^{xxv}

We identified at an early stage that floodplain harvesting results are very sensitive to on farm storage capacities.^{xxvi}

It is assumed that during large flood events most irrigators would plan to fill storages with floodplain harvesting instead...the model takes floodplain harvesting prior to other forms of available water.^{xxvii}

Harvesting of floodplain flows and rainfall runoff is primarily dependent on the infrastructure in place, such as channels, pumps and in particular the capacity to store the diverted water in on-farm storages.^{xxviii}

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

The ability to divert any overland flow that has accessed the property then depends on infrastructure developed to capture and store flood water, such as its intake capacity, and its on-farm storage capacity.^{xxix}

Within NSW, the practices of floodplain harvesting and rainfall runoff harvesting have been increasing since the early 1980s as irrigators in many parts of NSW have developed increasingly larger on-farm storages (Stazic et al., 2006). In general the practice of taking water in this way has bypassed the traditional water licensing system, the volumes taken have not been monitored and have been difficult to estimate.^{xxx}

The imperative to limit floodplain water harvesting is well documented in government reports and official meetings during the past 25 years, but until now the NSW Government has failed to act.

The NSW government floodplain water harvesting policy

The NSW Government is in the process of licensing floodplain water harvesting, 25 years after it was considered a matter of priority by the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council. The current policy is to issue licenses at an historic level of extraction, infrastructure and works approvals by July 2021.

Licensing and take

DPIE has said that floodplain water harvesting licences will be based on how much water was taken at either the 1993/94 (Cap) or 1999/2000 level of development:

For most regulated rivers, it is specified as the lesser of:

- *the take of water that would occur with the infrastructure and management arrangements that existed in 1999–2000, combined with the water sharing plan rules, or*
- *the take of water that would have occurred under the Murray–Darling Basin ‘Cap’ conditions.^{xxxi}*

The Cap conditions are set out in Schedule E of the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement, and limit extractions to baseline conditions. Baseline conditions are defined as:

...the level of water resource development for rivers within the Murray-Darling Basin as at 30 June 1994 determined by reference to:

- *the infrastructure supplying water; and*
- *the rules for allocating water and for operating water management systems applying; and*
- *the operating efficiency of water management systems; and*

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

- *existing entitlements to take and use water and the extent to which those entitlements were used; and*
- *the trend in the level of demand for water within and from the Murray-Darling Basin.*^{xxxii}

NSW proposed to license floodplain water harvesting at the lower of these levels of development by:

- assessing the capacity of on-farm storages at 3rd July 2008,
- assigning each landholder a notional share of the total volume of on-farm storages for each valley, and
- reducing the notional 2008 on-farm storage shares in proportion to the 1993/94 or 1999/2000 level of development.^{xxxiii}

Temporary storages

Temporary storages are surge areas, sacrifice fields, or other areas where water from the floodplain or floodplain streams is stored temporarily. Some water enters the soil profile, some is transferred to a permanent storage and some evaporates.

The current policy is that water in a temporary storage is only measured and accounted as floodplain water harvest if it is transferred into a designated permanent on-farm storage. That is, water in a temporary storage will not be measured or accounted for as floodplain water harvest after floodplain water harvesting licences are issued.^{xxxiv}

The capacity of temporary water storages is significant. For example, in 2017, DPIE estimated temporary storages in the Gwydir valley alone have a capacity of 400 gegalitres (345 gegalitres at 2013/14 and 55 gegalitres of future development).^{xxxv, 1}

¹ Note, that DPIE has recently downgraded its assessment of temporary storages in the Gwydir valley from 400 gegalitres to 29 gegalitres. (NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, 2021), https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0015/350205/model-build-report.pdf

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

Rainfall runoff

Under the New South Wales *Water Management Act 2000* [WMA, 2000], landholders can capture ten per cent of the average regional rainfall runoff on their land as their basic right, as well as 100 per cent of the average regional runoff from their irrigated land. These amounts are not included in the floodplain water harvesting licence regime and are exempt from accounting against the floodplain water harvesting entitlement. DPIE explains:

In practical terms, Rainfall Allowance for each individual farm is calculated as a sum of maximum annual runoff generated from the developed for irrigation area and 10 per cent of LTA of annual runoff generated from a farm's non-irrigable area. Both values are generated using 2008/09 development and management conditions model.^{xxxvi}

DPIE has drafted a regulation to exempt rainfall runoff captured in tailwater drains from requiring a water access licence or a works approval.^{xxxvii}

Accounting rules

DPIE has published proposed accounting rules for the NSW Border Rivers and the Gwydir valleys. They will be released for the Namoi, Macquarie/Wambuu and the Barwon-Darling/Baaka in coming months. The proposed accounting rules for floodplain water harvesting for the NSW Border Rivers and the Gwydir valleys are:

- Opening volume balances:
 - 100 per cent of the NSW Border Rivers regulated floodplain water harvesting licences,
 - 500 per cent of the Gwydir regulated floodplain water harvesting licences, and
 - 300 per cent of the Gwydir unregulated floodplain water harvesting licences.
- 100 per cent allocation on the first day of each water year thereafter,
- 500 per cent of the regulated floodplain water harvesting licence volume and 300 per cent for unregulated floodplain harvesting licence volume, as allowable take in any year, subject to account balances and
- unlimited carryover up to the annual take limit.^{xxxviii xxxix}

DPIE proposes a high allowable annual take (500 per cent), to compensate for a relatively low face value of the proposed licences. The Chair of NSW Irrigators Council explained:

NSW Irrigators Council said the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment had advised it "the general principle will be smaller licensed volume/higher carryover; larger licensed volume/less carryover".^{xl}

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

Table 1 below shows: the volume of floodplain water harvesting included in the Basin Plan; proposed and anticipated volumes to be licensed in NSW; and allowable annual take based on the proposed accounting rules. DPIE has proposed volumes for the Border Rivers and the Gwydir valleys. The anticipated volumes for the Namoi, Macquarie/Wambuu and the Barwon-Darling/Baaka are based on Government emails obtained under a Freedom of Information request.

Table 1: Basin Plan volumes, proposed floodplain water harvesting volumes, and allowable annual take

Valley	Basin Plan ^{xii} GL	DPIE proposed and anticipated volumes to be licensed GL	Allowable annual take ² GL
NSW Border Rivers	3.0	38 ^{xiii}	190
Gwydir	17.8	≈ 130 ^{xliii}	≈ 630
Namoi	14.0	100 ^{xliv}	500
Macquarie/ Wambuu	0	28 ^{xlv}	140
Barwon- Darling/Baaka	11.5	25 ^{xlvi}	125
Total	46.3	≈ 321	≈ 1,585

The proposed and anticipated floodplain water harvesting licence and allowable annual take volumes shown in Table 1 demonstrate a significant growth from 43.3 gigalitres under the Basin Plan to an approximate 321 gigalitres licence volume, which equates to approximately 1,585 gigalitres of allowable annual take, based on the proposed accounting rules.

² Assuming that the accounting rules to be proposed for the Namoi, Macquarie/Wambuu and the Barwon-Darling/Baaka are the same as the proposed rules for the Gwydir valley.

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

Estimates of floodplain water harvesting

It is well documented that past efforts to estimate floodplain water harvesting by governments have a large degree of uncertainty and are likely to be grossly underestimated.

Table 2 shows estimates of floodplain water harvesting in the Northern NSW Murray-Darling Basin.

Table 2: Estimates of floodplain harvesting extractions in the northern NSW Murray-Darling Basin

Author	NSW Border Rivers	Gwydir	Namoi	Macquarie /Wambuu	Barwon Darling /Baaka	Total
Bewsher Consulting ^{xvii} (2006)	>3	>114	>94	Small	>43	>254
Webb, McKeown & Associates ^{xviii} (2007)	13	82	14	-	13	122
SKM, CSIRO & Rural Bureau Services ^{xix} (2010)	55	150	60	8	50	323
Basin Plan ⁱ (2012)	3	17.8	14	-	11.5	46.3
Moroka Pty Ltd ⁱⁱ (2019)	3	117.8	93.5	-	21.9	236.2
DPIE (2019 – 2021)	49 ⁱⁱⁱ	171 ⁱⁱⁱⁱ	99.5 ^{lv}	50 ^{lv}	25.2 ^{lvi}	394.7

The estimates in Table 2 are long-term annual averages.

The variations in the estimates can be partly accounted for by:

- being based on different versions of the same models (Bewsher, Webb, McKeown, Basin Plan and Moroka),^{lvii,lviii}
- including rainfall runoff as well as floodplain water harvesting (Bewsher and Moroka),^{lix}
- excluding rainfall runoff, including only floodplain water harvesting (Basin Plan) and^{lx}
- being based on an estimation of on-farm storage volumes and the hydrological impact of on-farm storages identified using satellite imaging (SKM, CSIRO and Rural Bureau Services).^{lxi}

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

On-farm storage numbers and capacity

A critical part of licensing floodplain water harvesting is demonstrating that the licence volumes and accounting rules are within the 1994 Cap limit. DPIE has stated that the proposed licences will be within Cap but has not provided any evidence to support it.

This project has mapped on-farm storages and calculated their capacity using satellite images and Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR). The technical description of this work is detailed in Appendix 1.

Method

On-farm storages were identified using Water Observations from Space (WOfS), a GeoScience Australia satellite imaging product. The algorithm analyses Landsat satellite imagery and detects water on the landscape. The area examined corresponded to the designated floodplains defined by the NSW Government, shown in Figure 1.

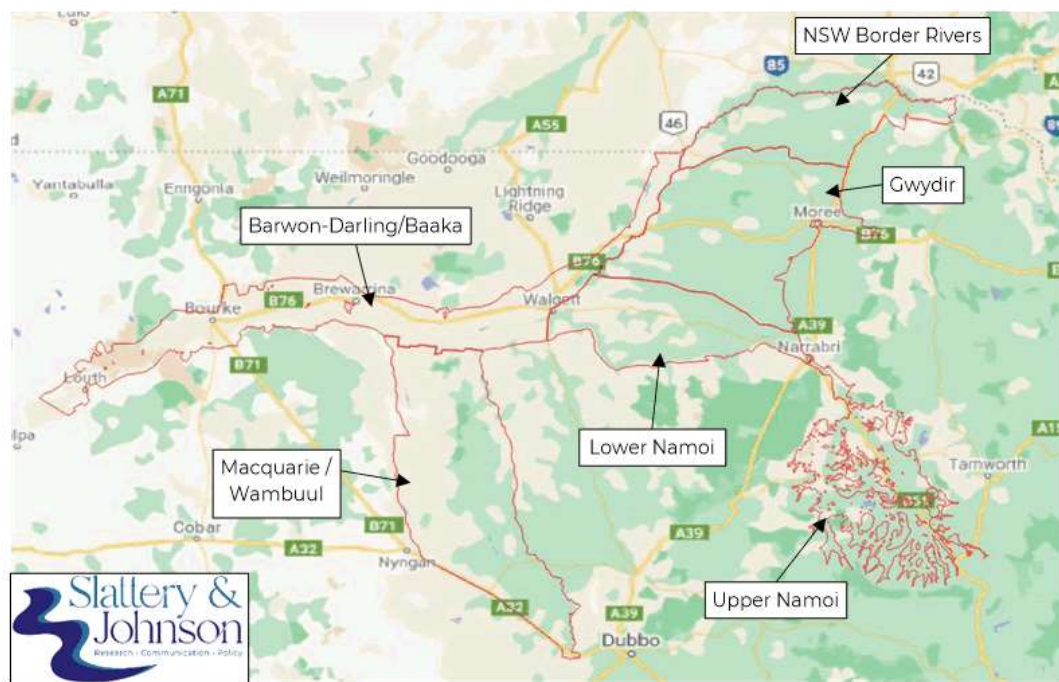


Figure 1: Field map of the study extent - northern NSW Floodplain Management Plan areas are outlined in red

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

WofS detects all water on the landscape, including natural water bodies, on-farm storages and irrigated fields (for example, crops, sports ovals, parks, etc.). To ensure only on-farm storages were included in the study, other wet areas such as natural watercourses and irrigated fields were eliminated from the results. Storages less than 5,625m² (approximately 75 x 75m) were also removed from the results. An example of on-farm storages and irrigated fields can be seen in Figure 2.

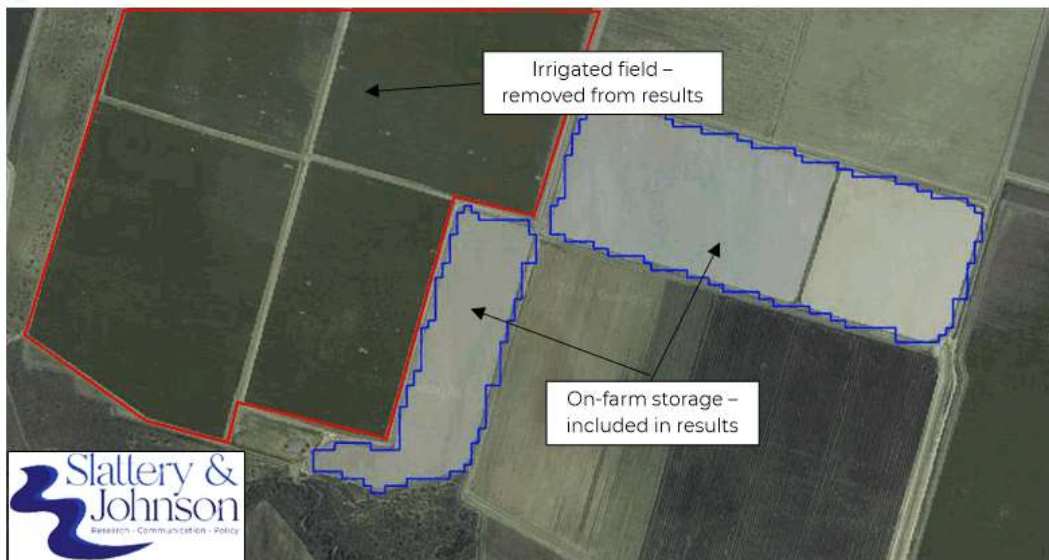


Figure 2: Distinction between on-farm storages and other water on the landscape

In the example shown in Figure 2, WofS detects both the irrigated field and the on-farm storages as water. In this example the irrigated field would be removed from the analysis.

The analysis of satellite imagery provides the surface area of private storages. It does not provide information regarding the depth or volume of storages. The volume of the storages can be calculated based on publicly available digital elevation models (DEMs) which are derived from LiDAR data³.

³ DEMs downloaded from <https://elevation.fsd.org.au/> (Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping). DEMs are derived from airborne LiDAR, a method of topographic mapping based on laser devices mounted on aircraft that determine the elevation of the ground.

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

Figure 3 below shows an example irrigation storage and associated digital elevation model.

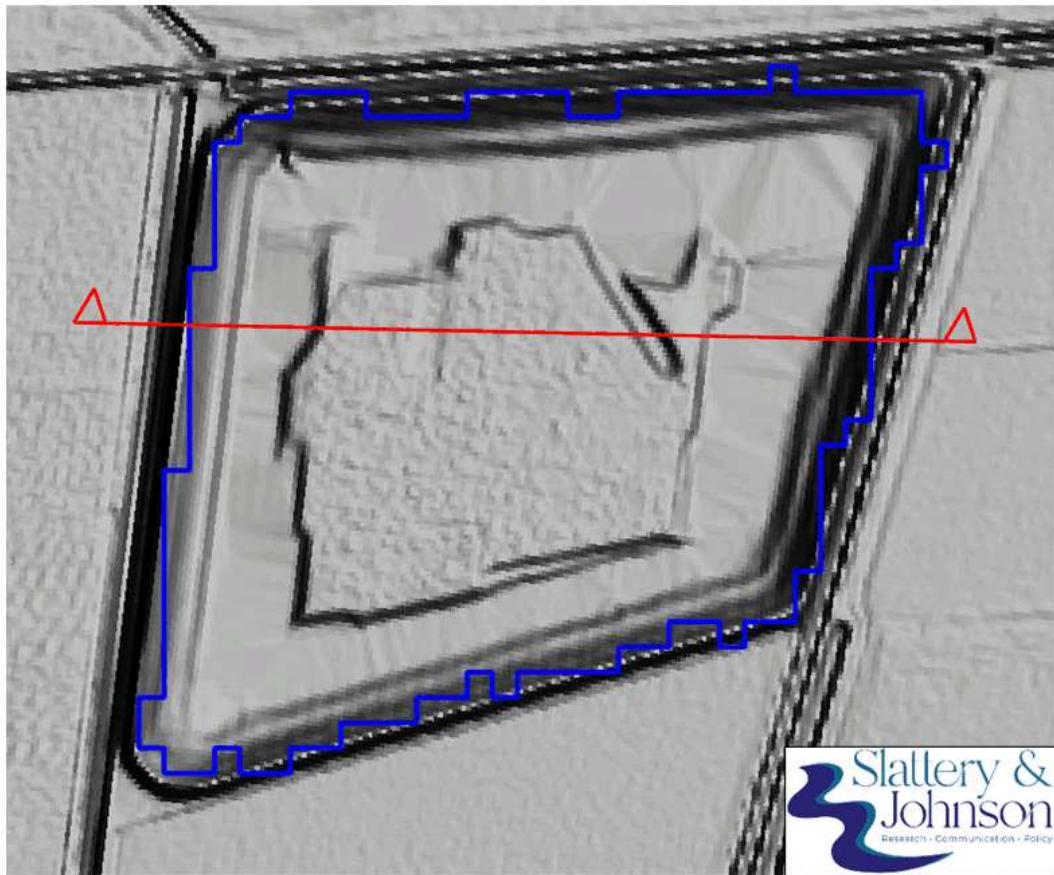


Figure 3: Example digital elevation model of an irrigation storage. Storage shown in blue and location of cross section in red.

The blue line shows the extent of the storage as detected from the satellite imagery. The grey background is the digital elevation model, effectively a 3-dimensional map of the ground. Landscape features such as banks, channels and borrow pits can clearly be identified. From the digital elevation model, a cross section (side view) can be created which shows the depth of the storage. The red line shows the location of the cross section included in Figure 4.

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

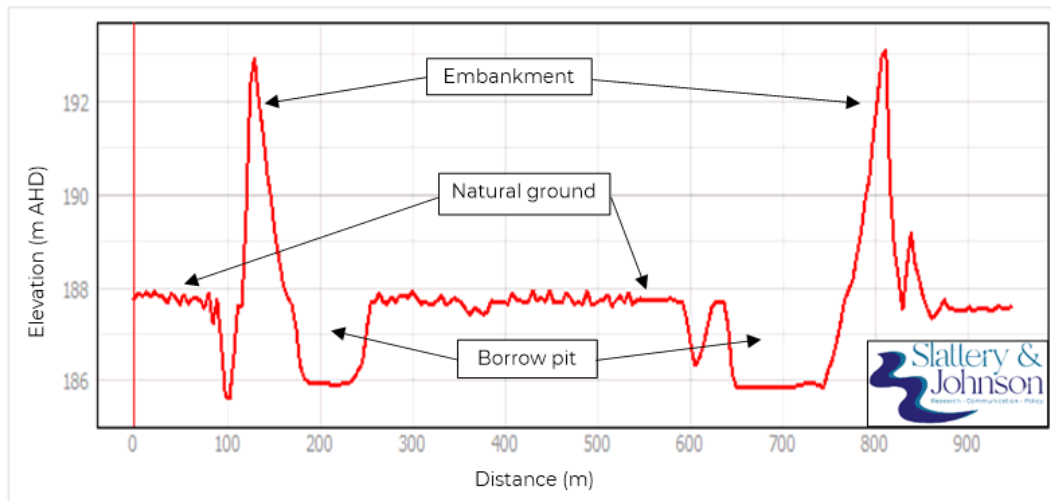


Figure 4: Example cross section (side view) of a storage.

The red line in Figure 4 represents the topography of the land. From the cross section, the storage features are readily identifiable (e.g. embankments, borrow pits) including elevation information such as the level of the top of embankments and the floor of the storage. This permits the calculation of the storage depth and volume. The example in Figure 4 shows a total depth of approximately five metres (193 metres AHD less 188 metres AHD).

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

Results

Figure 5 shows all the identified on-farm storages, represented as blue crosses.

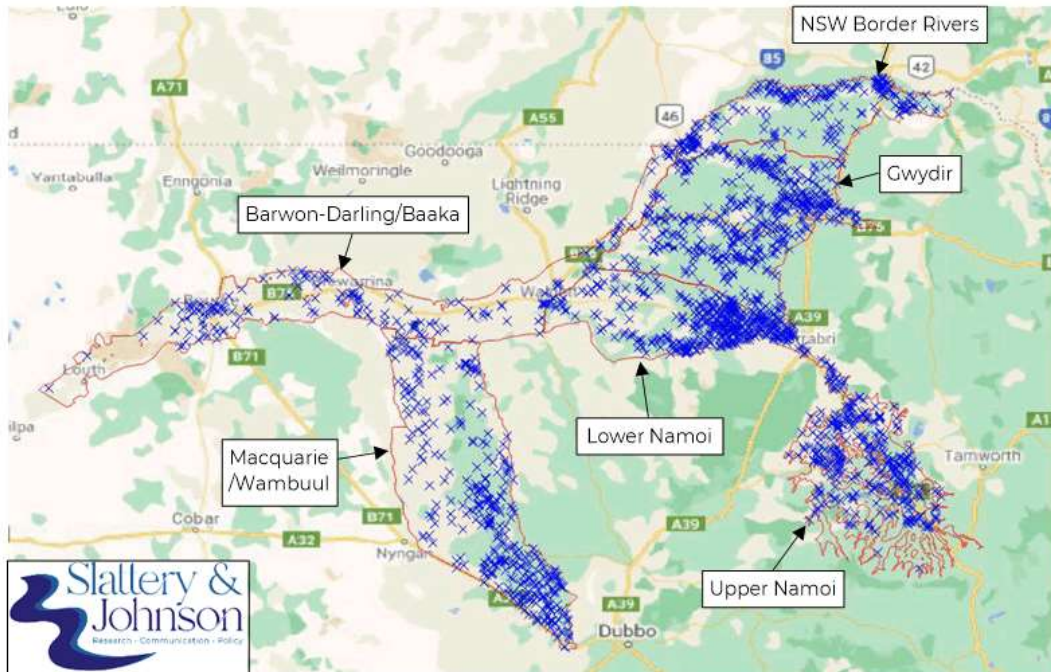


Figure 5: On-farm storages greater than 5,625m² in northern NSW. Red outlines are the Floodplain Management Plan areas

Figure 5 demonstrates the high number of on-farm storages in northern NSW, particularly in the upstream portions of the Gwydir, Lower Namoi, and Macquarie/Wambuul Floodplain Management Plan areas.

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

Table 3 summarises the number and total surface area of identified storages shown in Figure 5 demonstrates the high number of on-farm storages in northern NSW, particularly in the upstream portions of the Gwydir, Lower Namoi, and Macquarie/Wambuul Floodplain Management Plan areas.

Table 3: Number and surface area of on-farm storages greater than 5,625m² by valley

Valley	Number of on-farm storages greater than 5,625m ²	Storage total surface area (ha)
NSW Border Rivers	191	5,800
Gwydir	434	17,200
Namoi (Upper and Lower)	695	9,200
Macquarie/Wambuul	342	5,100
Barwon-Darling/Baaka	171	5,400
Total	1,833	42,700

The total number of on-farm storages identified is 1,833. The Namoi and Gwydir valleys account for 1,129 or 60 per cent of the total number of storages. The Gwydir valley alone accounts for 40 per cent of the total storage surface area.

The volume of 252 storages was calculated based on the digital elevation models. These comprised large and small storages from all the Floodplain Management Plan areas. These storages comprised 52 per cent of the total surface area of storages, and 56 per cent of the total volume. Where the volume of a storage was not calculated from the digital elevation model, a depth was assumed based on storages of a similar size in the same Floodplain Management Plan area.

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

Table 4 shows the storage volumes calculated for this project compared to DPIE's calculations.

Table 4: Comparison of on-farm storage volumes

Valley	On Farm storage sizes - DPIE GL	On farm storage sizes – Slattery & Johnson GL
NSW Border Rivers	200	239
Gwydir	621	544
Namoi	219	288
Macquarie/Wambuu	172	122
Barwon-Darling/Baaka	262	203
Total	1,474	1,395

The results are similar, most likely because the method used in this project was very similar to that used by DPIE, as confirmed in correspondence from DPIE officers to the Water Minister:

The figures quoted by Maryanne Slattery correspond roughly with figures already provided by the Department.

She has used the same method as the department – satellite mapping and LiDAR – to come up with a storage figure of around 1500GL currently. The Department has previously said the figure is around 1480GL.^{lxii}

A total of 1,833 water storages were detected within the study area, including 365 dams larger than one gigalitre. The total volume of all storages is 1,395 gigalitres, with dams larger than one gigalitre comprising 1,095 gigalitres or 80 per cent of total storage.

This project determined the number and volume of on-farm storages at key dates;

- 1993/94 to coincide with the Murray-Darling Basin Cap on diversions,
- 1999/2000 to coincide with NSW Plan Limits,
- 2008 to coincide with the NSW policy of issuing floodplain harvesting licences based on on-farm storages at that date, and
- 2019/20, current storage levels.

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

The volume of on-farm storages at those key dates is shown in Figure 6.

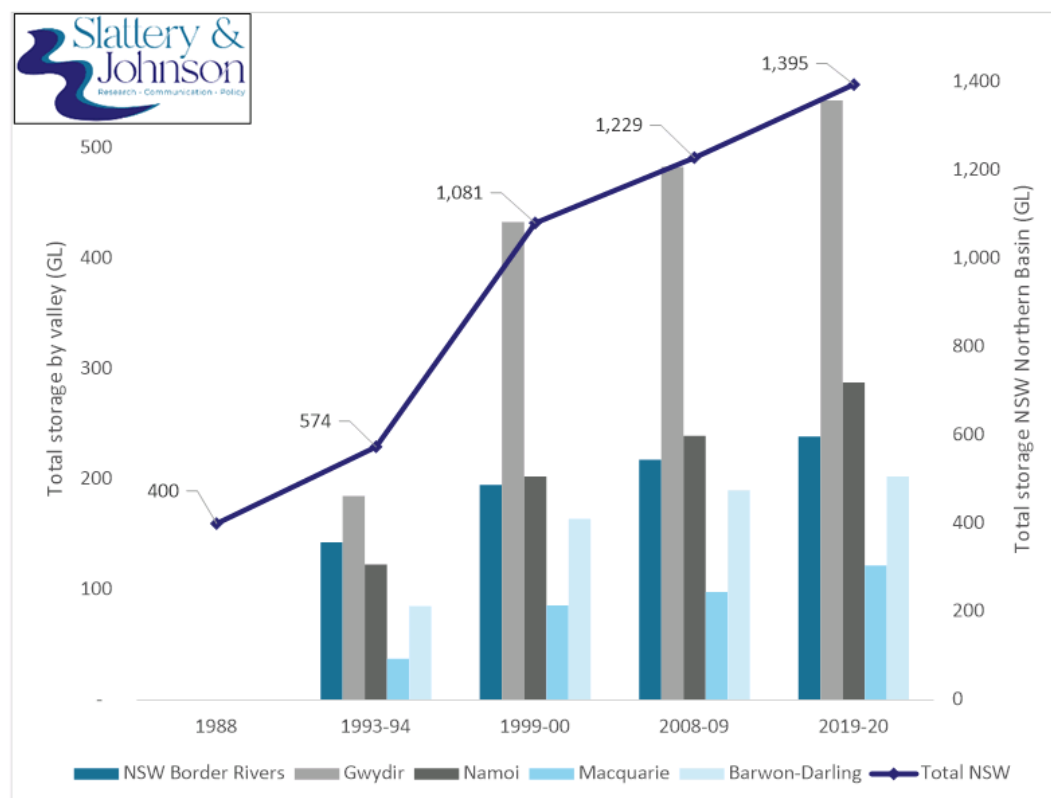


Figure 6: Estimated on-farm storages volumes from 1988 to 2020 (gigalitres)

Figure 6 shows the volume of on-farm storages by valley on the left axis, and the cumulative storage volumes on the right axis.

On-farm storage capacity has increased from approximately 574 gigalitres to 1,395 gigalitres since 1994, the Cap reference year. That is a 142 per cent increase (or 2.4 times the on-farm storage volumes at 1994).

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

DPIE has not provided historical storage information for the key dates. This report compares all other Government estimates since 1988, shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Estimates of On-Farm storages in the Northern Murray-Darling Basin

Valley	Murray-Darling Ministerial Council ^{lxiii} GL 1988	Murray-Darling Ministerial Council ^{lxiv} GL 1995	Webb, McKeown & Associates ^{lxv} GL 2007	CSIRO GL 2007 – 2008	SKM, CSIRO, Bureau of Rural Sciences ^{lxvi} GL 2010	NSW Department of Industry GL 2018-19
NSW Border Rivers			87 ⁴	77 ^{lxvii}	169	200 ^{lxviii}
Gwydir			351	521 ^{lxix}	429	621 ^{lxx}
Namoi			190	209 ^{lxxi}	171	219 ^{lxxii}
Macquarie/Wambuu			110	91 ^{lxxiii}	24	172 ^{lxxiv}
Barwon-Darling/Baaka			298	284 ^{lxxv}	151	262 ^{lxxvi}
Total	400	520	1,036	1,182	944	1,474

All estimates shown in Table 5 were either undertaken or commissioned by government agencies. A comparison between these estimates and the results of this project is shown in Figure 7.

⁴ Note, the Webb, McKeown & Associates estimate was 459 gegalitres for the Qld & NSW Border Rivers and did not distinguish between Qld and NSW. CSIRO estimated the total Border Rivers at 407 gegalitres, with 77 gegalitres in the NSW Border Rivers. The 87 gegalitre estimate is based on a pro rata of the CSIRO estimate of 77 gegalitres for NSW Border Rivers out of a total 407 gegalitres total for Qld and NSW.

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

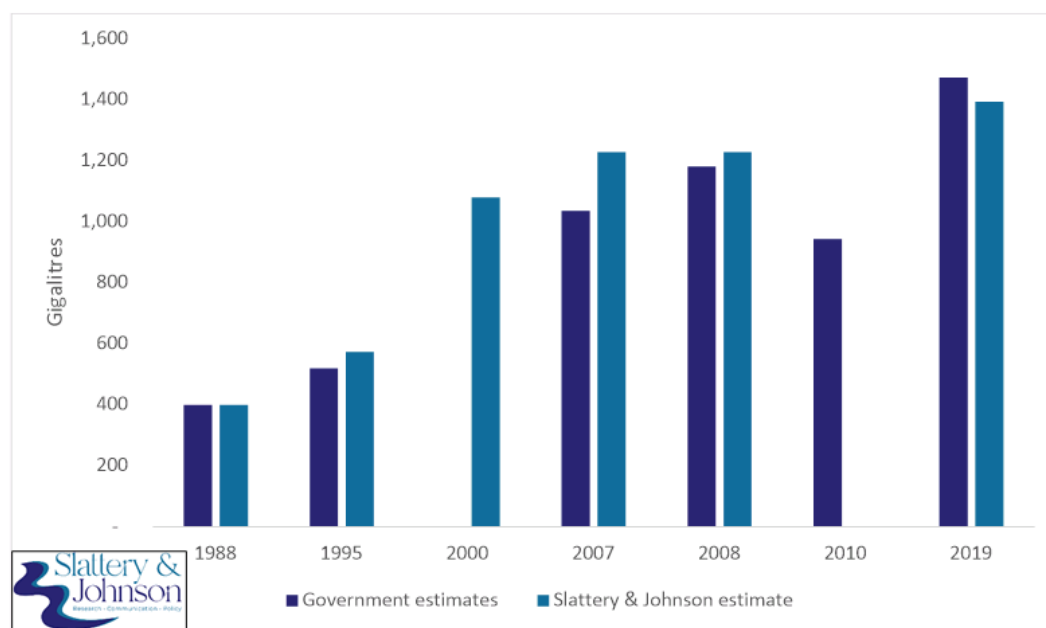


Figure 7: Historical comparison between government and Slattery & Johnson calculations for on-farm storages in the northern NSW Basin

Figure 7 shows a strong correlation for the number of on-farm storages between the government estimates over time shown in Table 5 and the figures determined in this project.

Papers made available to the NSW parliament show that DPIE confirmed to the Water Minister that the work for this report corresponds to its estimate for on-farm storage capacity in 1994 as 600 gigalitres:

The 1994 figure 600GL is based on satellite mapping only...The figure corresponds with the Department's estimate.^{lxxvii}

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

Conclusion

Water reforms in the Murray-Darling Basin are the government response to environmental degradation of river systems. Governments agreed to limit extractions to the level of irrigation development in 1994. In his address to the Press Club on 25 January 2007, Prime Minister John Howard said that;

...the current trajectory of water use and management in Australia is not sustainable....I announce today a \$10 billion, 10 point plan on a national scale to improve water efficiency and to address the over-allocation of water in rural Australia, particularly in the Murray-Darling Basin.^{lxxviii}

However, floodplain water harvesting has never been included in Cap reporting in NSW. That is, Cap has never been complied with in respect to floodplain water harvesting.

DPIE claims that floodplain water harvesting will be limited by Cap are unsubstantiated. There has been no external verification of this claim and the documentation of the Cap models has been withheld from public scrutiny.

DPIE intends to issue floodplain water harvesting licences based on current on-farm storage capacities. It has published current on-farm storage data, but not relevant historic data.

On-farm storages are an important factor in the level of development. On-farm storages in the Northern NSW valleys has increased by 2.4 times (142 per cent) since 1994.

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

Appendix 1: Technical methodology

This study was undertaken using Geoscience Australia's WOfS (Water Observations from Space) algorithm to detect on-farm storages for irrigation, and to then estimate on-farm storage capacities. The WOfS product is based on the Landsat satellite which has a historical repository of images available at approximately 16-day intervals dating back to 1980. There are many remote sensing algorithms available for detecting water both in Australia and internationally and most are reasonably good at detecting water bodies.^{lxxxix, lxxx, lxxxi,}

^{lxxxii} In this study, we used the publicly available product developed by Geoscience Australia called Water Observations from Space (WOfS). WOfS is derived from Landsat 5, 7 and 8 images and provides an analysis ready water map for the mainland Australia and Tasmania in 25 m resolution from 1986 to present. Full details of the water extraction algorithm can be found in Mueller et al. (2016). The latest version of WOfS (2.1.5) was downloaded from NCI website from the following address:

http://dapds00.nci.org.au/thredds/catalog/fk4/datacube/002/WOfS/WOfS_25_2_1/catalog.html

WOfS data is provided in GDA94 Australian Albers projection. The size of each scene is 100 × 100 km (4000 × 4000 pixels). Images were downloaded and processed using scripts written in the software program, Matlab. The scripts were prepared such that they read the rasters, applied all the masks and extracted the pixels detected to have water. The following base layers were prepared:

- i. Data availability raster: this raster counted the cumulative number of days that clear data was available for each pixel during the calendar year, regardless of water being present.
- ii. Water availability raster: this raster counted the cumulative number of days that water had been detected in each pixel during the calendar year.
- iii. Water availability proportion raster: this raster was produced by dividing water availability with data availability rasters explained in steps i and ii and shows the percentage of times water was detected for the clear and cloud free images.

A raster consists of a matrix of cells (or pixels) organized into rows and columns (e.g. a grid) where each cell contains a value representing information, such as colour. Rasters are digital aerial photographs, imagery from satellites, digital pictures, or even scanned maps.

Water availability proportion rasters were compared to aerial images to find a threshold to detect waterbodies. This was done because WOfS classified highly irrigated terrestrial areas such as football fields as water, this type of error is known as commission error. We eliminated a large number of these commission errors by applying a threshold of >30 per cent of water availability percentage for

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

each water year (1993/1994, 1999/2000, 2008/2009, and 2018/2019) on the water availability proportion maps.

GIS analysis

Raster maps were converted to vector format and water body polygons were created, producing 5 shapefiles (one for each modelling year and an additional representing the total). A unique ID number was assigned to each unique water body found in each year. We dissolved each shapefile and an artificial water storage layer published by Geoscience Australia into a single shapefile to find the maximum extent of each water body and in doing so harmonised the waterbody id between WOfS water years.

Natural waterbodies such as rivers, lakes, wetlands, and swamps were prevalent and were filtered from the artificial water storages. We removed the natural waterbodies by clipping out the natural areas that intersected with the Australian National Aquatic Ecosystem geodatabase layer (lacustrine, palustrine, and riverine wetland layers). In some instances, the ANAE layers were incomplete or did not cover the full extent of the natural waterbody. In these instances, we manually digitised the area with high resolution imagery, so that any masking could be consistently applied across time. In addition, we removed wetland, swamps, and tributaries by imposing an additional buffer of 100 metre on each side of the riverine shapefile. In instances, where water storages were within the 100 metre buffer, the buffer was manually edited to incorporate the water storage, this was done visually.

Water bodies that were not irrigation storages (e.g. wetlands, rivers, irrigated fields, sports fields) were removed. This process was partly automated using publicly available shapefiles of natural water bodies and by manual inspection of the satellite images, as shown in Figure A1.1. Where we applied manual validation we used high resolution imagery to select and eliminate the non-irrigation storages. Similarly, dark objects (e.g. black soils), building shadows and steep slopes were other observed commission errors. These errors were manually digitised and eliminated.

Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

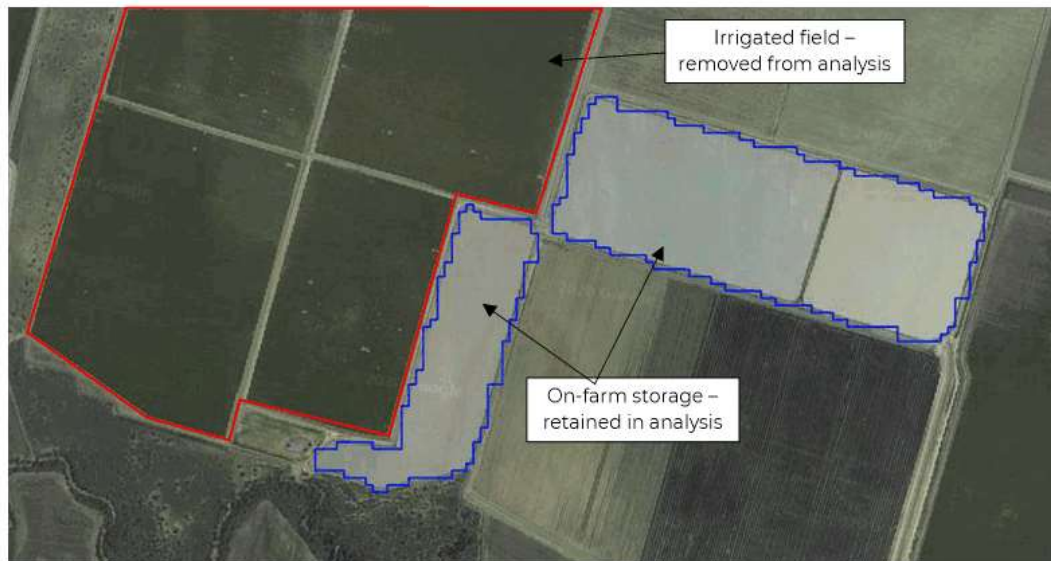


Figure A1.1. Manual inspection to remove non irrigation waterbodies

The images in Figure A1.1 are an example of manually identifying a water body with a large channel as an on-farm storage (top left arrow), rather than a wet paddock (top right arrow), that might otherwise be mistakenly interpreted as a storage.

Calculating volume

The analysis of satellite imagery provides the surface area of water detected during the study period. It does not provide information regarding the depth of dams. Depth information is obtained from analysis of publicly available digital terrain models (DEMs), which are derived from LiDAR data. The Elvis online portal provides access to publicly available DEMs throughout Australia⁵.

The DEMs can then be interrogated using the software package QGIS to determine the volume of the storages, using the 'Raster Surface Volume' tool. The volume of 252 storages was calculated using this method. These storages comprised small, medium and large size storages across all the different floodplain management plans. These storages comprised 52% of the total surface area of storages, and 56% of the total volume. Where the volume of a storage was not calculated from the DEM, a depth was assumed based on storages of a similar size in the same Floodplain Management Plan area.

⁵ Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping, <https://elevation.fsdf.org.au>

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Floodplain water harvesting in the Northern New South Wales Murray-Darling Basin

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9.4 REQUEST TO AMEND THE DATE OF APRIL ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

File Number: RPT/21/132

Responsible Officer: Ken Ross - General Manager
 Responsible Division: Office of the General Manager
 Reporting Officer: Gayle Marsden - Executive Assistant

Objective: 2.0 Wentworth is a desirable Shire to visit, live, work and invest
 Strategy: 2.1 Grow visitation to the Shire by developing a quality visitor experience and promoting our destination

Summary

Six of the eight Councillors have been nominated to attend the Western Division of Councils Conference in Broken Hill from 19-21 April 2021.

The Ordinary Council Meeting is also scheduled for 21 April 2021.

It is proposed that Council consider amending the date of the Ordinary Council Meeting from 21 April 2021 to 14 April 2021 to allow Councillors to attend the Western Division of Councils Conference that is scheduled to be held in Broken Hill on 19-21 April 2021.

Recommendation

That Council amend the date of the Ordinary Council Meeting from 21 April 2021 to 14 April 2021.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider amending the Ordinary Council Meeting from 21 April 2021 to 14 April 2021 to allow Councillors to attend the Western Division of Councils conference in Broken Hill 19-21 April 2021.

Background

At the February 2021 Ordinary Council meeting it was resolved that six Councillors be nominated to attend the Western Division of Councils Conference in Broken Hill. There is however a clash of dates and to allow Councillors to attend, consideration will need to be given to change the date of the April Ordinary Council Meeting. The Conference is an important event for Western Division Councils with opportunities to lobby Ministers and also support resolutions put forward as a group of Councils.

Conclusion

Due to the clash of dates of the Western Division of Councils Conference being held on 19-21 April 2021, and the April Ordinary Council being scheduled for 21 April 2021, it is recommended that Council amend the April Ordinary Council Meeting from the 21 April 2021 to 14 April 2021.

Attachments

Nil

9.5 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

File Number: RPT/21/135

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy
Responsible Division: Finance and Policy
Reporting Officer: Vanessa Lock - Finance Officer

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future
Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

Rates and Charges collections for the month of February 2021 were \$1,212,864.96. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 68.62%. For comparison purposes 67.32% of the levy had been collected at the end of February 2020. Council currently has \$29,400,150.73 in cash and investments.

Recommendation

That Council notes the monthly finance report.

Detailed Report

The purpose of this report is to indicate to Council the position in relation to the rate of collections and the balance of cash books.

Reconciliation and Balance of Funds held as at 28 February 2021

The reconciliation has been carried out between the Cash Book of each fund and the Bank Pass Sheet as at 28 February 2021.

	Combined Bank Account
Cash Balance as at 1 February 2021	\$ 2,518,898.77
Add: Receipts for the Period Ending 28 February 2021	\$ 4,715,168.98
Rates, Debtors, Miscellaneous	
Less: Payments for the Period Ending 28 February 2021	
Cash Book entries for this Month	\$ 4,841,391.87
Cash Balance at at 28 February 2021	\$ 2,392,675.88
Investments	
Total Investments as at 28 February 2021	\$ 27,016,242.07
TOTAL	\$ 29,408,917.95

Collection of Rates and Charges

Rates and Charges collections for the month of February 2021 were \$1,212,864.96. After allowing for pensioner subsidies, the total levies collected are now 68.62%. A summary of the Rates and Charges situation as at 28 February 2021 is as follows.

	Rates and Charges	
Levies		
Balance Outstanding at 30 June 2020 - Rates / Water	1,206,927.30	
Rates and Charges Levied 22 July 2020	9,193,808.18	\$ 10,400,735.48
+ Additional Water Charges	1,292,660.75	
+ Supplementary Rates and Charges	66,759.52	
+ Additional Charges	17,238.75	
- Credit Adjustments	18,110.51	
- Abandonments	3,342.90	\$ 11,755,941.09
Deductions		
- Payments	7,891,259.05	
- Less Refunds of Payments	7,923.12	\$ 7,883,335.93
		\$ 3,872,605.16
- Pensioner Subsidy		
Government Subsidy	100,860.99	
Council Subsidy	82,522.63	\$ 183,383.62
Total Rates/Water Charges Outstanding		\$ 3,689,221.54

Note: For comparison purposes 67.32% of the levy had been collected at the end of February 2020.

Council Loans Report

Name	Institution	Purpose	Interest Rate	Loan Amount	Amount Outstanding	Due Date
Loan 201	National Australia Bank	Buronga Landfill	4.550% Fixed	\$ 920,000.00	\$ 432,147.17	30/01/2025
Loan 202	ANZ Bank	Civic Centre	3.470% Fixed	\$ 850,000.00	\$ 680,487.32	21/10/2026
Loan 203	National Australia Bank	Midway Centre	3.586% Fixed	\$ 1,900,000.00	\$ 1,710,389.62	28/04/2023
Loan 204	Bendigo Bank	Buronga Landfill	5.290% Fixed	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,325,567.62	12/05/2037
				TOTAL	\$ 4,148,591.73	

Rates/Water write offs and adjustments

No Rates and charges have been written off under the delegated authority of the General Manager for the month of February 2021.

Overtime and Travelling

Month: February 2021	Pay Periods 17 & 18					
Overtime						
	Time and a Half		Double Time		Double Time and Half	
Department	Hours	Amount	Hours	Amount	Hours	Amount
Animal Services	12.25	\$ 572.93	16.50	\$ 1,017.38		
Civil Works	26.00	\$ 1,386.47	4.00	\$ 276.08		
Finance	9.50	\$ 689.38	3.50	\$ 393.48		
Governance	6.75	\$ 296.28				
Parks & Gardens	9.00	\$ 351.67	14.50	\$ 718.43	0.75	\$ 80.40
Roads - Council	287.00	\$ 12,348.91	166.50	\$ 9,461.00		
Roads - RMS	20.00	\$ 903.50	49.50	\$ 2,816.78		
Roads & Eng Indoor	21.50	\$ 1,497.39	17.50	\$ 1,622.70		
Tourism	4.25	\$ 234.10				
Waste Management	31.00	\$ 1,266.13	7.00	\$ 831.13		
Water & Waste Water	66.50	\$ 3,412.21	85.75	\$ 5,938.71		
Total	493.75	\$ 22,958.97	364.75	\$ 23,075.69	0.75	\$ 80.40
Travel Allowance						
Department	Kms	Amount				
Roads & Eng Indoor	1,248.0	\$ 973.44				
Health & Planning	720	\$ 561.60				
Water & Wastewater	331	\$ 258.33				
Total	2,299.2	\$ 1,793.37				
Grand Total		47,908.43				

Conclusion

The report indicates to Council that its finances are in a favourable position.

Attachments

Nil

9.6 MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT

File Number: RPT/21/144

Responsible Officer: Simon Rule - Director Finance and Policy

Responsible Division: Finance and Policy

Reporting Officer: Hodi Beauliv - Manager Finance

Objective: 4.0 Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future

Strategy: 4.1 Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning, decision-making and service delivery

Summary

As at 28 February 2021 Council had \$18 million invested in term deposits and \$11,408,917.95 in other cash investments. Council received \$18,917.83 from its investments for the month of February 2021.

In February 2021 Council investments averaged a rate of return of 0.51% and it currently has \$6,681,129.01 of internal restrictions and \$15,926,320.72 of external restrictions.

Recommendation

That Council notes the monthly investment report.

Detailed Report**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the current status of its investments.

Matters under consideration

As at 28 February 2021 Council had \$29,408,917.95 invested with nine (9) financial institutions.

Breakdown of Total Funds Available

Financial Institution	Amount	% of Available Funds
AMP	\$3,009,622.19	10.23%
Bank of Queensland	\$2,000,000.00	6.80%
Bendigo Bank	\$4,392,675.88	14.94%
Commonwealth Bank	\$4,000,000.00	13.60%
IMB Bank	\$1,000,000.00	3.40%
Macquarie Bank	\$6,004,855.09	20.42%
Members Equity Bank	\$2,001,764.79	6.81%
National Australia Bank	\$6,000,000.00	20.40%
Westpac	\$1,000,000.00	3.40%
TOTAL	\$29,408,917.95	96.60%

Investments on Hand as at 28 February 2021

Term Deposits

Investee	Date Invested	Date of Maturity	Effective Interest Rate	Amount Invested	Rating
Bank of Queensland (6)	22/10/2020	22/07/2021	0.60%	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bank of Queensland (8)	2/09/2020	3/03/2021	0.70%	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bendigo Bank (1)	24/08/2020	20/05/2021	0.65%	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Bendigo Bank (7)	29/09/2020	29/03/2021	0.50%	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB+
Commonwealth Bank	15/12/2020	15/06/2021	0.42%	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/A
Commonwealth Bank (2)	15/01/2021	14/07/2021	0.37%	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/A
Commonwealth Bank (3)	29/01/2021	26/10/2021	0.40%	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/A
Commonwealth Bank (4)	11/02/2021	10/08/2021	0.35%	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/A
IMB Bank	9/12/2020	9/03/2021	0.97%	\$ 1,000,000.00	A2/BBB
Macquarie Bank	8/10/2020	8/04/2021	0.55%	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1/A+
Macquarie Bank (3)	12/02/2021	14/05/2021	0.30%	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1/A+
National Australia Bank (2)	9/02/2021	9/08/2021	0.35%	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
National Australia Bank (3)	28/10/2020	26/04/2021	0.50%	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
National Australia Bank (4)	31/08/2020	28/05/2021	0.75%	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
National Australia Bank (6)	25/02/2021	21/01/2022	0.35%	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
National Australia Bank (7)	28/09/2020	29/03/2021	0.60%	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
National Australia Bank (8)	23/02/2021	19/01/2022	0.35%	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
Westpac Banking Corporation	24/02/2021	21/11/2021	0.30%	\$ 1,000,000.00	A1+/AA-
Total Term Deposits				<u><u>\$ 18,000,000.00</u></u>	

Other Cash Investments

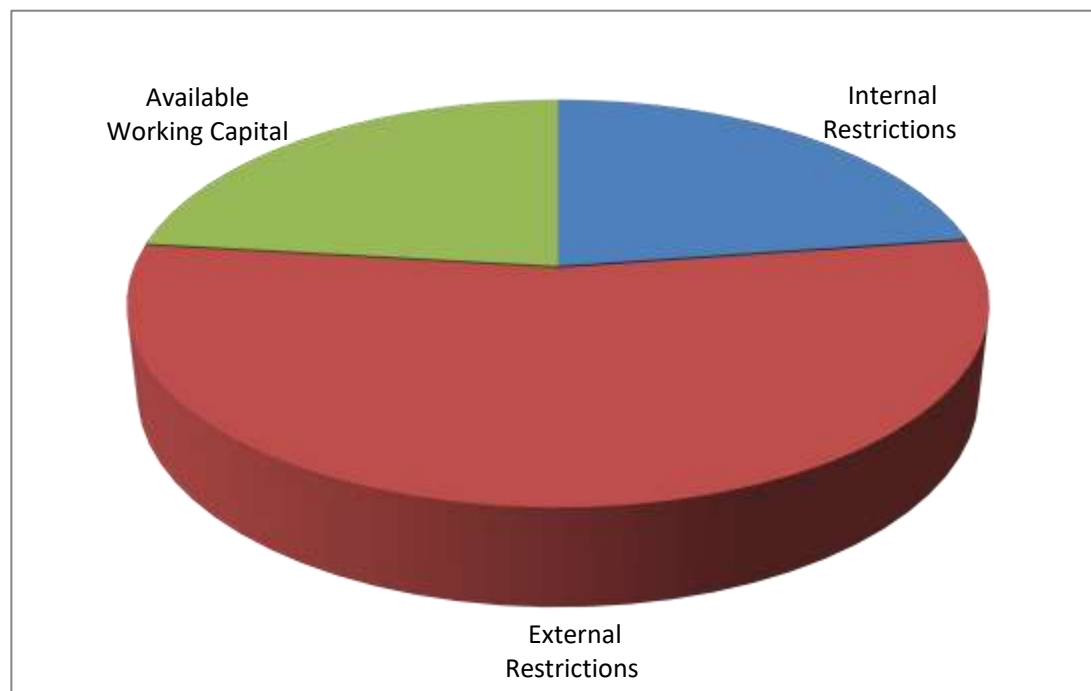
Investee	Date Invested	Date of Maturity	Effective Interest Rate	Amount Invested	Rating
Bendigo Bank - Operating A/c	N/A	Ongoing		\$ 2,392,675.88	A2/BBB+
AMP (11) - 31 Days Notice A/c	22/09/2020	Ongoing	0.95%	\$ 3,009,622.19	A2/BBB+
Macquarie Bank (4) - Cash at Call A/c	27/11/2020	Ongoing	0.45%	\$ 4,004,855.09	A1/A+
ME Bank (5) - Cash at Call A/c	1/12/2020	Ongoing	0.40%	\$ 2,001,764.79	A2/BBB
Total Other Cash Investments				<u><u>\$ 11,408,917.95</u></u>	
Total Funds Available				<u><u>\$ 29,408,917.95</u></u>	

Note: Ratings provided are from Moody's and Standard & Poors Rating Agencies

Restrictions

Internal Restrictions		
- Employee Entitlements	\$ 2,376,437.00	
- Doubtful Debts	\$ 115,367.00	
- Future Development Reserve	\$ 1,113,213.94	
- Trust Account	\$ 576,111.07	
- Capital Projects	\$ 1,000,000.00	
- Plant Replacement Reserve	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 6,681,129.01
External Restrictions		
- Water Fund	\$ 9,650,439.71	
- Sewer Fund	\$ 2,772,053.62	
- Developer Contributions Reserve	\$ 639,646.61	
- Unexpended Grants	\$ 2,053,451.36	
- Crown Reserves Reserve	\$ 289,128.84	
- Loan Guarantee Reserve	\$ 3,162.86	
- Prepayments Cemeteries	\$ 518,437.72	\$ 15,926,320.72
Day to Day Liquidity		\$ 6,801,468.22
Total Funds Available		\$ 29,408,917.95

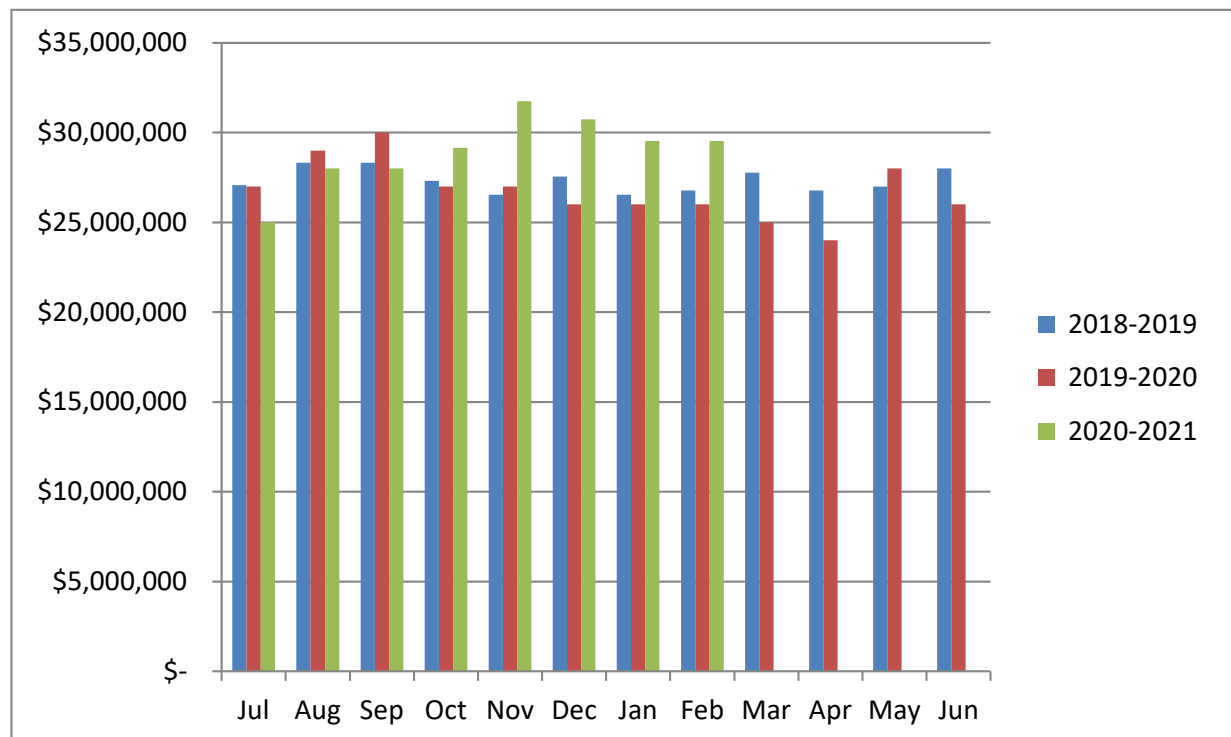
Breakdown



Summary – Unexpended Grants as at 28 February 2021

Grant	Amount
Pooncarie Weir	\$ 77,746.00
RFS Repairs & Maintenance Grant	\$ 25,231.36
NSW Fixing Local Roads	\$ 1,450,474.00
State Library Infrastructure Grant	\$ 500,000.00
Total	\$ 2,053,451.36

Total Funds Invested

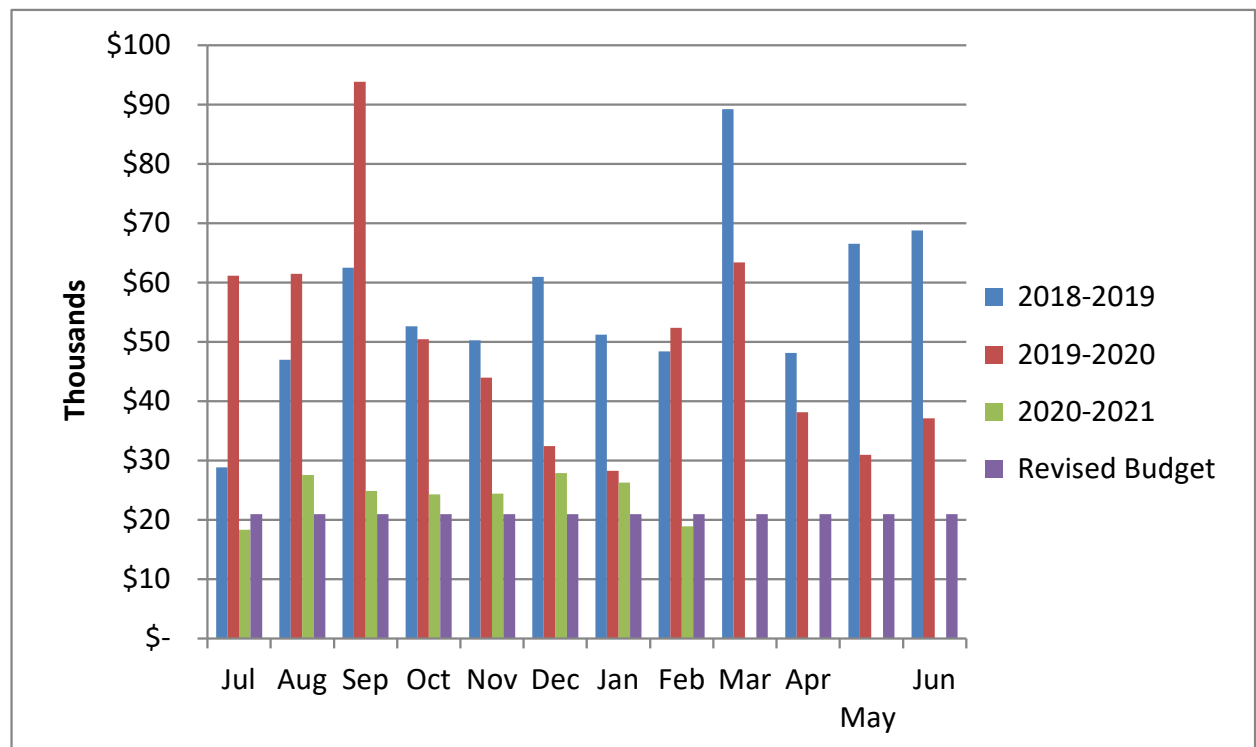


Six (6) term deposits and three (3) other accounts matured or provided interest in February earning Council \$18,917.83 in interest. The revised budget for February was \$20,916.67 following the reduction in interest revenue adopted in the September Quarterly Budget Review. Year to date Council has received \$192,464.58 in interest. The revised year to date budget is \$167,333.33.

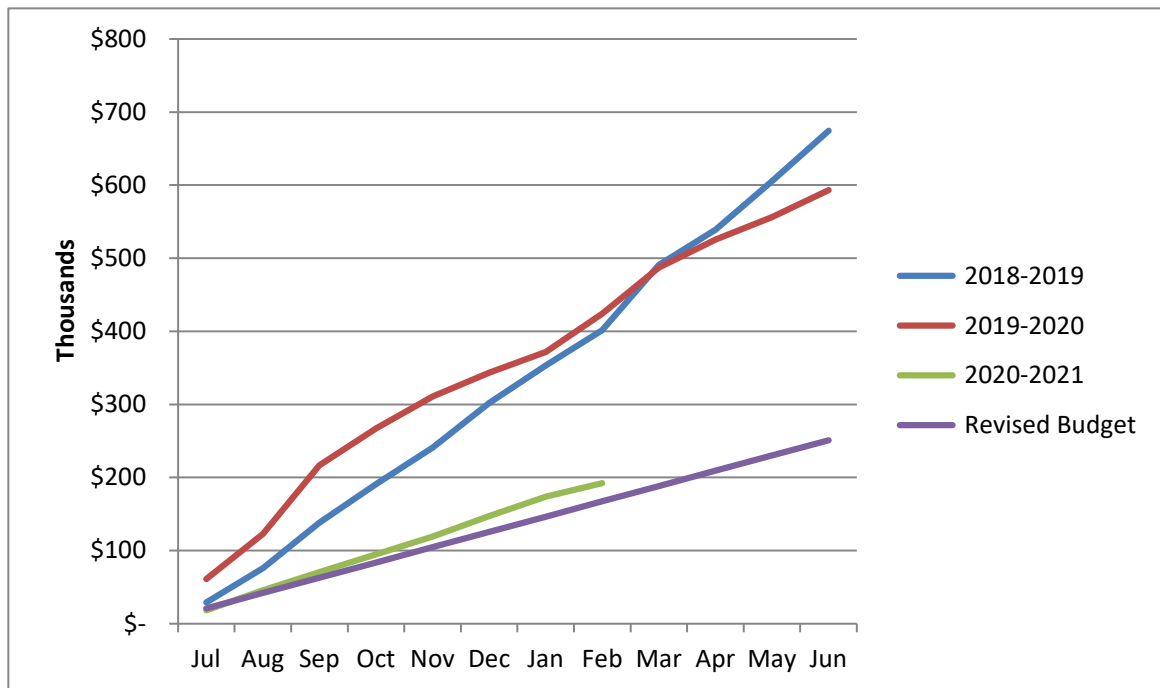
Investment Revenue in February 2021

Investee	Date Invested	Date of Maturity	Effective Interest Rate	Amount Invested	Interest Earned
Term Deposits					
Bank of Queensland (7)	13/08/2020	11/02/2021	0.75%	\$1,000,000.00	\$3,739.73
Bank of Queensland (9)	26/08/2020	24/02/2021	0.70%	\$1,000,000.00	\$3,490.41
Macquarie Bank (3)	15/10/2020	12/02/2021	0.50%	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,643.84
National Australia Bank (2)	13/08/2020	9/02/2021	0.73%	\$1,000,000.00	\$3,600.00
National Australia Bank (6)	25/11/2020	23/02/2021	0.45%	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,109.59
National Australia Bank (8)	25/11/2020	25/02/2021	0.45%	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,109.59
Other Cash Investments					
AMP (11)	22/09/2020	Ongoing	0.955%	\$3,009,622.19	\$2,042.25
Macquarie Bank (4)	27/11/2020	Ongoing	0.45%	\$4,003,352.47	\$679.80
Members Equity Bank (5)	1/12/2020	Ongoing	0.42%	\$2,001,084.99	\$1,502.62
Total					\$18,917.83

Investment Revenue received February 2021

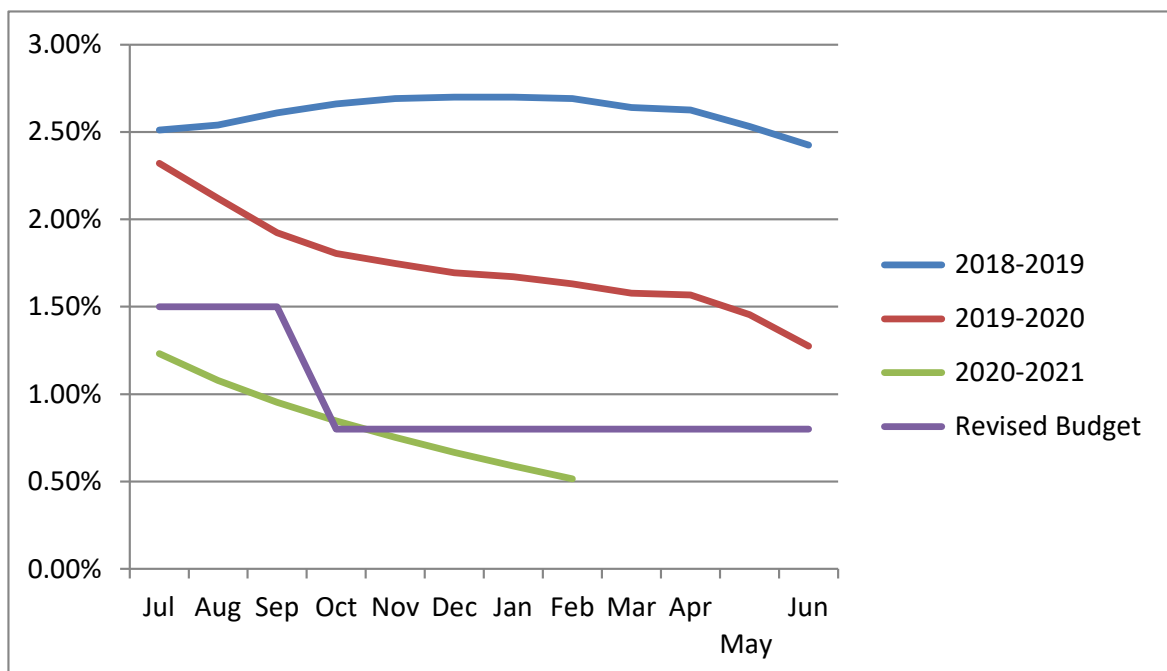


Total Interest received July 2020 – June 2021



For February 2021 Council's investments returned an effective average rate of 0.51%. Year to date the effective average rate has been 0.83%. The budget for 2020-2021 was 1.50%, but this was reduced to 0.8% following the first Quarterly Budget Review to reflect the reduction in interest rates.

Effective average Interest Rate



Conclusion

The Director Finance & Policy certifies that all investments have been made in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW), Local Government (General) Regulations 2005 and Council's Investment Policy. Council is investing its funds prudently to optimise returns and reduce exposure to risk in accordance with legislation and its own investment policy.

Attachments

Nil

9.7 A34 EAST WENTWORTH SEWERAGE WORKS & EASEMENT ACQUISITION

File Number: RPT/21/136

Responsible Officer: Matthew Carlin - Director Health and Planning
Responsible Division: Health and Planning
Reporting Officer: Hilary Dye - Property and Land Tenure Officer

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

Summary

Subsequent to a Council resolution passed in January 2018, a new Council report is required to continue the acquisition of the East Wentworth Sewerage Works and easement due to additional land being acquired and a new registered plan of acquisition.

The area of acquisition is Part of Lot 7349 DP1177510, Part of Lot 1 DP762875, Easement for Access 5m wide and Easement for Sewer 5m wide over Lot 7348 DP1177510, being Crown land and by the Compulsory Acquisition Process.

Recommendation

1. That Council proceed to acquire Lots 341 and 342 DP1269863, easement for sewer and easement for access shown as A and B in DP1269863, Lots 341 and 342 being part of Lot 7349 Deposited Plan 1177510 and part of Lot 1 Deposited Plan 762875, and the easements affecting Lot 7348 Deposited Plan 1177510.
2. That Lots 341 and 342 DP1269863 and easements A and B in DP1269863 are to be acquired by the compulsory process under the terms of the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991 by authority contained in the Local Government Act 1993, for the purposes of the upgrade of the East Wentworth Sewer Pump Station.
3. That minerals are to be excluded from this acquisition.
4. That the acquisition is not for the purpose of resale.
5. That the necessary applications be made via the Office of Local Government to the Minister for Local Government and the Governor for approval to the compulsory acquisition.
6. That the General Manager be provided with authority to finalise the acquisitions including signing any necessary documentation.
7. That upon acquisition the acquired land becomes classified as Operational land.
8. That the Valuer General be engaged to determine the compensation payable to the owner and interested parties.

Detailed Report**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to continue with the acquisition of, Part of Lot 1 DP762875, and additionally to acquire part of Lot 7349 DP1177510 (highlighted yellow in the attached plan). An Easement for Access 5m wide and Easement for Sewer 5m wide over Lot 7348 DP1177510, (highlighted blue in the attached plan) is also still required as per the previous Council report of January 2018. The acquisition will be by the compulsory process under the

terms of the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991 (NSW)* and by authority contained in the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*.

Background

Council is progressing the acquisition of land that accommodates essential public infrastructure. In this instance the plan of acquisition is a section of land for sewer infrastructure.

Legal, strategic, financial or policy implications

Council does not currently own the land on which the subject infrastructure is located, the owner is Crown Lands.

Conclusion

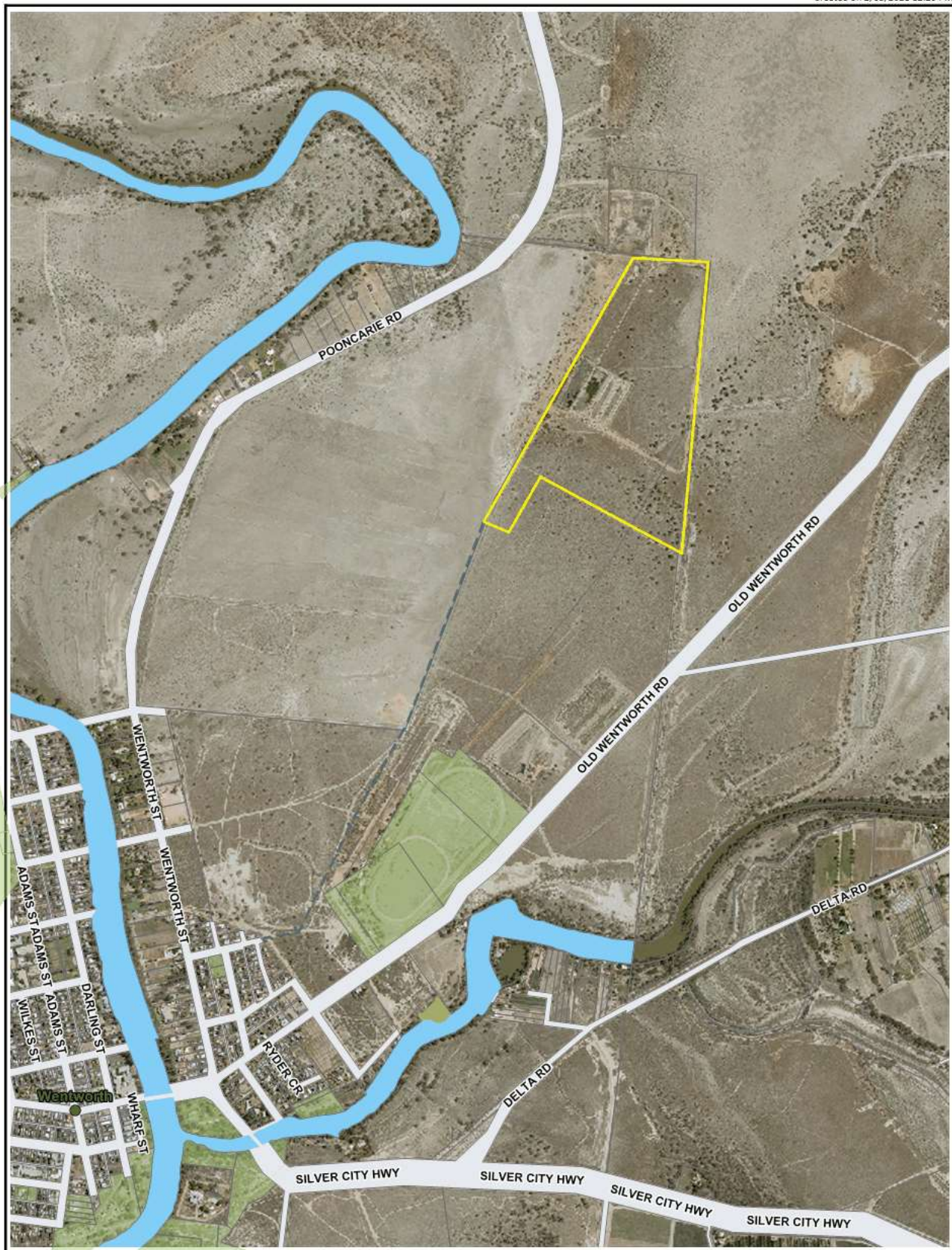
This acquisition is required in order to obtain legal occupation of the land that accommodates Council's public infrastructure.

Attachments

1. Deposited Plan 1269863 [↓](#)
2. Aerial View of Acquisition [↓](#)



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**WENTWORTH
SHIRE COUNCIL**

WORTH THE DRIVE
P.O. Box 81 Wentworth 2648.
Tel. (03) 5027 5027 Fax. (03) 5027 5000
E: council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au
W: www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au

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* This map is not to be sold or remade as part of a commercial product.

Area of acquisition

Created by: hilaryd
Date: 2/03/2021
Scale: 1:18272
Projection:



9.8 CANCELLATION OF THE WENTWORTH DISTRICT ROWING CLUB EASTER REGATTA

File Number: RPT/21/137

Responsible Officer: Matthew Carlin - Director Health and Planning
 Responsible Division: Health and Planning
 Reporting Officer: Deborah Zorzi - Administration Officer, Health and Planning

Objective: 2.0 Wentworth is a desirable Shire to visit, live, work and invest
 Strategy: 2.5 Maintain/create desirable open spaces and recreation facilities

Summary

At the Ordinary Council meeting of 16 December 2020 Council resolved to suspend the operation of the alcohol-free zone in the area of Wentworth District Rowing Club and immediate lawn area for this year's event of the Wentworth District Rowing Club Annual Easter Regatta.

Following consultation with Wentworth District Rowing Club and Mildura Rowing Club, Rowing Victoria has moved the location of this year's Easter Regatta from Wentworth to Mildura.

Recommendation

That Council note that having regard to the change of location of this year's Easter Regatta, the suspension of the alcohol-free zone in the area of Wentworth District Rowing Club and immediate lawn area is no longer required.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Council that the suspension of the alcohol-free zone in the area of Wentworth District Rowing Club and immediate lawn area is no longer required because of the change of venue of the Easter Regatta.

Background

At the Ordinary Council Meeting of 16 December 2020, in accordance with Section 645 of the *Local Government Act 1993* Council suspended the operation of the alcohol-free zone in the area of Wentworth Rowing Club and Lawns for nominated hours/days during one event, being the Easter Regatta.

At that meeting, Council also resolved to advise the NSW Police of the details of the suspension of the alcohol-free zone, and to advertise that suspension in a locally circulated newspaper.

NSW Police will now be advised of the change to the event and that the suspension is no longer required.

No advertisement of the suspension has as yet been placed in a locally circulated newspaper.

Attachments

Nil

9.9 NEW PROCESS FOR LODGING DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS THROUGH THE PLANNING PORTAL

File Number: RPT/21/138

Responsible Officer: Matthew Carlin - Director Health and Planning

Responsible Division: Health and Planning

Reporting Officer: George Kenende - Development Assessment Officer

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth is a vibrant, growing and thriving Shire

Strategy: 1.2 Encourage and support population growth and resident attraction

Summary

In September 2019, a Secretary order was released by the NSW Government requiring that all concurrence and referrals as part of a Development Application from Council to other agencies must be done through the Planning Portal. This was the first part of a process by the NSW State Government to move all Development Applications onto the portal.

On 1 January 2021, Council was activated to allow applicants to lodge Development Applications through the portal. Council can still lodge Development Applications received through other mediums (e-mail or hardcopy files over the counter).

From 1 July 2021, all Development Applications including Section 4.55 Modification Applications must be lodged with Council through the planning portal. Council will be unable to accept a Development Application lodged through other mediums (e-mail or hardcopy files over the counter).

Recommendation

That Council notes the changes that will occur from 1 July 2021 for the lodgement of all Development Applications and Section 4.55 Modification Application.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the mandatory Development Application lodgment process that will commence from the 1st of July 2021.

Background

The NSW Government launched the planning portal in 2015. In March 2018, Council was notified of an updated planning portal coming online, with further updates regarding changes to the planning portal sent to council periodically after that.

From January 2019 a Secretary order was issued requiring that all concurrence and referral from nine (9) selected NSW Council to other agencies must be done through the Planning Portal. Further orders were signed in April, May, June, August, September and October of 2019 increasing the number of Councils required to conduct all concurrence and referrals through the planning portal.

Wentworth Shire Council was identified in the September 2019 Secretary order requiring that all concurrence and referral from Council to other agencies must be done through the Planning Portal.

The concurrence and referral Secretary orders were the first part of a process by the NSW State Government to move development application lodgment onto the portal.

On 1 January 2021, Council was activated to allow applicants to lodge Development Applications with the Council through the portal. Council has been given a transitional period

of 6 months were development application can be received for lodgment through other mediums.

From 1 July 2021, all Development Applications including Section 4.55 Modification Applications must be lodged by all NSW Local Government Councils through the planning portal. This means Council will be unable to accept Development Applications that have not been received through the planning portal.

Refer to Attachment 1 Secretary Order

Implications

From 1 July 2021, any person wanting to lodge a Development Application with Council will be required to do so through the planning portal.

This will require creation of a NSW planning portal account to be able to access and use the system.

Conclusion

From 1 July 2021, Council cannot to accept Development Applications and Section 4.55 Modification Applications that have not been received through the planning portal.

Attachments

1. Secretary Order [↓](#)

This is an Order under the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Savings, Transitional and Other Provisions) Regulation 2017

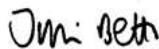
Pursuant to *Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Integrated Development and Concurrences) Regulation 2018*

I, Jim Betts, the Planning Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, in pursuance of clause 24(2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment (Savings, Transitional and Other Provisions) Regulation 2017*, do, by this Order:

1. exempt the following consent authorities from the application of clause 24(1) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment (Savings, Transitional and Other Provisions) Regulation 2017*:
 - i. Burwood Council
 - ii. Camden Council
 - iii. Canterbury-Bankstown Council
 - iv. Dubbo Regional Council
 - v. Eurobodalla Shire Council
 - vi. Georges River Council
 - vii. Port Stephens Council
 - viii. Murrumbidgee Council
 - ix. Muswellbrook Shire Council
 - x. Wentworth Shire Council
 - xi. Willoughby City Council

This Order applies from 13 September 2019.

Dated 6 September 2019



Jim Betts
Planning Secretary
Department of Planning and Environment

9.10 DELEGATED AUTHORITY APPROVALS AS AT END OF FEBRUARY 2021

File Number: RPT/21/141

Responsible Officer: Matthew Carlin - Director Health and Planning

Responsible Division: Health and Planning

Reporting Officer: Kerrie Copley - Administration Officer

Objective: 1.0 Wentworth is a vibrant, growing and thriving Shire

Strategy: 1.1 Grow the potential for business and industry to develop and expand

Summary

For the month of February 2021, a total of eight Development Applications and four S4.55 Modification Applications were determined under delegated authority by the Director Health and Planning.

The estimated value of the determined developments was \$1,201,370.00. This brings the year to date total to nine Development Applications and five S4.55 Applications approved, with an estimated development value of \$1,212,370.00.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a) Receives and notes the report for the month of February 202; and
- b) Publicly notifies, for the purposes of Schedule 1 Division 4 Section 20 (2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, the applications as listed in the attachment on the Wentworth Shire Council website.

That a division be called in accordance with S375A of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*.

Detailed Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a list of Development Applications as tabled in Attachment 1, determined under delegated authority by the Director Health and Planning for the month of February 2021, hence complying with the requirements under section 3.20 of the Office of Local Government Promoting Better Practice Program.

Conclusion

The total value of determinations was \$1,201,370.00 for the month of February 2021. The average determination time was 32 days.

Attachments

1. February 2021 Determinations [↓](#)

DETERMINATION OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2021

FILE NUMBER	OWNER	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	VALUE (EX GST)	DETERMINATION DATE	ACTIVE DAYS
S4-55/2020/036	Keltren Pty Ltd Trensuper Pty Ltd	Sturt Highway Lot 1 DP 1128099 & Lot 1 DP 1197180 Trentham Cliffs	Modify DA2017/115 to include 15 Eco-Huts on Lot 1 DP 1197180	\$0.00	15/02/2021	43
DA2020/170	Matthew Milne	250 Pitman Avenue Lot 1 DP126706 Gol Gol	Storage Shed	\$16,000.00	4/02/2021	27
DA2020/171	Michael Golitschenko	72 - 74 Adelaide Street Lot 1 Section 11 DP 758456 Gol Gol	Pool shade structure, kitchenette & alfresco dining area	\$19,000.00	15/02/2021	40
DA2020/174	Wentworth Shire Council	Mitchell Street Lot 7011 DP 1101609 Dareton	Extension to Clubroom Kitchen	\$250,000.00	23/02/2021	43
DA2020/177	David Whitelaw	229 Adams Street Lot 2 DP 756994 Wentworth	Additional Commercial Mooring Site	\$0.00	8/02/2021	29
DA2020/178	Allan & Marjorie Featherston	9 Pine Road Lot 6 DP 1267581 Gol Gol	Storage Shed	\$46,000.00	1/02/2021	27
S4-55/2020/039	Jessica Williams	Corbett Avenue Lot 1 DP 1260884 Buronga	Modify DA2017/062 shed 2 reduced in size & design & offset further from side boundary	\$0.00	25/02/2021	37
S4-55/2020/040	Kevin & Vicky Watson	21 Modikerr Way Lot 14 DP 1103697 Gol Gol	Modify DA2019/150 Storage shed location amended	\$0.00	11/02/2021	24
DA2020/182	Stephanie Thompson	30 Thomas Street Lot 27 DP 1259103 Gol Gol	Dwelling with garage & storage shed	\$395,370.00	17/02/2021	20

DETERMINATION OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2021

DA2020/184	Rohan & Candice Malic	27 Thomas Street Lot 33 DP 1259103 Gol Gol	Dwelling with garage & storage shed	\$400,000.00	16/02/2021	25
DA2021/002	Lachlan & Susan McClure	Anabranch Mail Road Lot 1 DP 756157 Wentworth	Storage shed	\$75,000.00	25/02/2021	29
S4-55/2021/001	Jake Concol & Cherie Follet	68 Wood Street Lot 3 DP 1253735 Gol Gol	Modify DA2020/093 Amend storage shed location	\$0.00	16/02/2021	5

9.11 PROJECTS AND WORKS REPORT UPDATE - MARCH 2021

File Number: RPT/21/140

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Tarryn Kampman - Coordinator Roads & Engineering

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

Summary

This report provides a summary of the projects and major works undertaken by the Roads and Engineering Department which have been completed during the month of February 2021.

Recommendation

That Council notes the major works undertaken for February and the scheduled works for March 2021.

Detailed Report

Refer to below for updates of the works completed in February 2021 and planned activities scheduled for March 2021.

Projects and Works update for February 2021

Roads

- Arumpo Road reconstruction works completed with sealing finalised 26 February. Street furniture awaiting installation.
- Major reconstruction works for Transport for NSW on a 1.5km section, at segment 40 between Gol Gol and Euston, Sturt Highway. Scope of works awaiting approval from Transport for NSW.
- Gravel sourced for the reconstruction works on Garston Road and High Darling Link Road.

Maintenance Grading

- Planned maintenance grading was undertaken on the following roads throughout February; Nob, Milkengay, Roo Roo, Old Broken Hill and Windamingle Roads.

Projects

Wentworth Aerodrome Upgrade

- Stage Two provisional works on extended apron parking area and eastern side taxiway link continuing.
- Linemarking on all runway, taxiway and apron areas completed.
- Electrical works continuing.
- Landscaping works on entrance to Aerodrome completed.
- Tender closed 19 February for runway 17/35 surfacing works, tender evaluation and assessment has been undertaken, with report being presented to the March Ordinary Council Meeting for approval to award.
- Request for quotation sent early February for stormwater drainage and kerb & gutter for Stage Two construction, successful contractor notified and issued purchase order.
- Aerodrome runway 08/26 reopened Wednesday 24 February for day flights only. Runway 17/35 remains closed pending funding extension.

Buronga EDS – completion June 2021

- Sewer pit installed and backfilled.
- Slab formwork prepared for conduits and mesh.

Buronga Riverfront – completion May 2021

- Contractor has commenced construction undertaking the following:
 - Installation of irrigation infrastructure; and
 - Installation of rock structures.

Carramar Drive Oval Fencing

- All works for the installation of the fence along the oval have been completed.

Dareton Shared-Way Continuation – completion March 2021

- Council advised residents and businesses of the proposed works along Silver City Highway and School Road.
- Works brought forward due to contractor working on Wentworth RV Dump Point.
- Concrete path alignment prepared.
- Crusher dust path constructed.

Fotherby Park BBQ and Picnic Table

- Existing picnic table and slab removed.
- Existing BBQ to be removed with new BBQ installation.

George Gordon Oval Perimeter Fencing – completion March 2021

- Work commenced 2 March 2021, with the old fence removed and the new fence footings to be placed Monday 8 March 2021.

Gol Gol Shared-Way – completion April 2021

- School zone speed sign modified to single post by Transport for NSW.
- Path alignment approved by Transport for NSW.

Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant Electrical and Process Upgrade – completion April 2021

- System functioning testing continuing for each dosing system as it's changed over.
- New laboratory flooring and painting completed.
- Painting of exterior points, including filters and pipework completed.
- Lunch room fit out underway with purchasing, supply and installation of kitchen table, cutlery, computer desks and chairs.
- PLC and SCADA architecture testing ongoing as system continues to be changed over.
- Laboratory flooring installation including, lino flooring and final painting touch ups to be finished early March 2021.
- Contractor continues pulling new cabling through conduit system.
- Repairs to Lagoon 1 outlet valve complete, however further works required to the outlet structure.
- Cleaning of Lagoon 1, desludging of waste material to waste bunded area of plant reserve area completed.
- Light and distribution board installation and testing completed.
- Handrailing installed around filter area for Workplace Health and Safety, further tidy up required.
- Reinstatement of lawn areas with irrigation sprinklers, monitoring and watering continues.

James King Park playground – completion June 2021

- Site preparation awarded to contractor.
- Installation of play equipment scheduled for end of May.

Midway Centre - Bendigo Bank Agency

- Bendigo Bank signage installed by Bendigo Bank.
- Ceiling light being installed in Agency – works scheduled for Wednesday 10 March.

Mourquong Water Main Extension – completion May 2021

- Live tapping of main completed.
- Design to be reviewed by Roads & Engineering Officers before approval is granted.
- Application submitted to Crown Land for Licence as well as a grant of easement application applied for to secure the tenure of the pipeline. The licence will enable a more viable connection for residents.
- Mourquong Co-Op drainage and irrigation pipes to be confirmed.

Wentworth All Day Care Centre Redevelopment

- Final plans being finalised to ensure building functionality is achieved and compliant with relevant guidelines.

Wentworth RV Dump Point (Wentworth Sporting Complex) - completion April 2021

- Road way concrete poured.
- Kerb poured.
- RV dump point slab poured.

Wentworth Riverfront BBQ and Nature Play Area

- Works on hold.

Wentworth Riverfront - Rowing Vessels and Houseboat Mooring

- Tenderers notified of the delays encountered and have been given the opportunity to review their submitted price before the final tender evaluation is completed and awarded.
- Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) have provided in principle support for the sheet piling in writing via email. No formal response received to date from Fisheries. Environmental Offset to be undertaken by Council in the next financial year.
- Two cheapest tenderers invited to review their submitted price due to time delays encountered and to price a potential cost saving alternative.
- Tender evaluation and assessment has been undertaken, with report being presented to the March Ordinary Council Meeting for approval to award.

Wentworth Showgrounds Community Pavilion - COMPLETED

- Minor landscaping works to be completed in Autumn.
- Council is in possession of keys to the new Pavilion, keys ordered for the showground user groups.
- Building had spider spray treatment internally and externally on 26 February 2021.
- Mayor and Councillors invited to attend a photo shoot to go with the media release that was prepared for the local media promoting the new building.

Wentworth Sewerage Rationalisation – expected completion date August 2021

Wentworth:

- The electrical contractor continues to undertake SCADA works to Sewerage Pumping Stations #1 and #2.
- Review of the switchboard control design on going.
- Renewed lightning risk assessment on going.
- Lagoon 2 cleaning works completed with cumbungi removal completed.
- Permit from the rural fire services was obtained to complete the burning of the cumbungi once dried out.
- Lagoon 2 base preparation works underway.
- The completion of the rising main at Wentworth including underground boring of Adams St for the installation of the rising main beneath the Silver City Highway has been completed.

Dareton:

- Dareton sewer treatment plant decommissioning has been completed.
- Diversion of sewage water from Lagoon 3 to Lagoon 1 completed.
- Design underway for the raw water to be diverted from Coomealla Golf Club to top up evaporation lagoons that has become a wetlands area.

Willow Bend Caravan Park Upgrade – completion (design stage) March 2021

- Detailed design for filtered water, raw water, sewer, irrigation, and fire services nearing completion.
- Electrical design currently underway.

West Road Raw Water Extension

- Expressions of interest received from 10 residents in favour of the extension.
- Investigation & feasibility report is underway.

Projects and Works scheduled for March 2021

Roads

- Mallara Street Pooncarie, postponed till end of April due to the off-road event - Pooncarie 400 that is taking place from the 16 to 18 April in Pooncarie.
- Works to commence first week March on Garston Road and High Darling Link Road reconstruction.
- Sturt highway Seg40 construction works for 1.5 km section programmed to commence Monday 15 March.

Maintenance Grading

- Planned maintenance grading for March includes; Old Broken Hill, Popio, Belvedere, Springwood, Arumpo and Pooncarie-Menindee Road.

Projects

Wentworth Aerodrome Upgrade

- Stage Two provisional works on extended apron parking area and eastern side taxiway link continuing.
- Council has submitted a Project Change Request for Change to Scope and an Extension of Time to request approval to upgrade the second runway 17/35, with response from the funding body expected mid March.
- Electrical works continuing, installation of Apron Flood lighting.
- Tender to be awarded for runway 17/35 surfacing works, and contract documentation to be prepared and issued.
- Investigations underway for jet fuel fuelling station at Wentworth Aerodrome.

Buronga EDS

- Completion of slab works, including:
 - Mesh
 - Conduits
 - Concrete
- Internal lining of pit structure to be undertaken.
- Internal pit plumbing to be fixed to holding tank.

Buronga Riverfront

- Hardscape items to be finalised with the contractor.
- Construction of softscape items continuing.

Dareton Shared-Way Continuation

- Concrete works to begin early March and be completed in one week.

Fotherby Park BBQ and Picnic Table

- A request for quote has been issued, with closing date for quotes 12 March 2021.
- Works scheduled to be completed 30 April 2021.

George Gordon Netball Courts

- Contractor to undertake LUX testing of the flood lights March 2021.
- Court repairs scheduled for March 2021.

Gol Gol Shared-Way

- Council to advise residents of the proposed works along Adelaide, Tapio and William Street.

- Works scheduled to begin Mid-March.

Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant Electrical and Process upgrade

- Laboratory refurbishment works continuing with the final lino being installed and paint touch ups.
- Final site acceptance testing (SAT) of PLC and SCADA architecture and testing.
- Lime chemical dosing flushing systems to be installed.
- Solenoids installed to be wired up and tested.
- Lunch room fit out to be completed.
- Training of WSC staff for plant functioning to be undertaken.
- Small garden shed for raw water pump system to be erected.

Pitman Avenue and Wood Street Shared Paths – completion June 2021

- Council to advise impacted residents of footpath works in Wood Street.

Wentworth Riverfront BBQ and Nature Play Area

- Works on hold.

Wentworth Riverfront - Rowing Vessels and Houseboat Mooring

- Tender evaluation and assessment undertaken first week March, with report submitted to the March Council meeting for approval to award works.

Wentworth RV Dump Point

- Dump-Ezy to be installed.
- Sewer to be connected.
- Filtered Water to be installed.
- Seal edges to be reinstated.

Wentworth Sewerage Rationalisation

- Works underway on the last lagoon at Wentworth, Lagoon 2 with the Geofabric liner being laid. Works to be completed end of March.
- Wentworth SPS 4 inlet diversion to be installed.

Willow Bend Caravan Park Upgrade

- Detailed design package to be completed March.
- REF to be completed early March.
- DA to be completed early March.
- Tender documentation to be completed early March.

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 - Projects and Works Photo Update [↓](#)



George Gordon Oval – removal of the old fence 2 March 2020



Carramar Dive Oval Fence and pedestrian gate



Mourquong Water Main Extension - Live tapping of main 12 February 2021



Midway Centre - Bendigo Bank Agency



Gol Gol Water Treatment Plant Upgrade – progress photos



Wentworth Sewerage Scheme – progress photos



Wentworth Aerodrome – opening of runway 08/26



Wentworth RV Dump Point photos taken 1/03 and 5/03.



Buronga Riverfront clearing and levelling site 27 February 2021

10 NOTICES OF MOTIONS / QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

11 **CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED SESSION**

Despite the right of members of the public to attend meetings of a council, the council may choose to close to the public, parts of the meeting that involve the discussion or receipt of certain matters as prescribed under section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act.

With the exception of matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors) (10A(2)(a)), matters involving the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer (10A(2)(b)) or matters that would disclose a trade secret (10A(2)(d)(iii)), council must be satisfied that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

The Act requires council to close the meeting for only so much of the discussion as is necessary to preserve the relevant confidentiality, privilege or security being protected. (section 10B(1)(a))

Section 10A(4) of the Act provides that a council may allow members of the public to make representations to or at a meeting, before any part of the meeting is closed to the public, as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed.

Section 10B(4) of the Act stipulates that for the purpose of determining whether the discussion of a matter in an open meeting would be contrary to the public interest, it is irrelevant that:-

- (a) a person may misinterpret or misunderstand the discussion, or
- (b) the discussion of the matter may -
 - (i) cause embarrassment to the council or committee concerned, or to councillors or to employees of the council, or
 - (ii) cause a loss of confidence in the council or committee.

Recommendation

That Council adjourns into Closed Session, the recording of the meeting be suspended, and members of the press and public be excluded from the Closed Session, and that access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld unless declassified by separate resolution.

This action is taken in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993 as the items listed come within the following provisions:-

12.1 Construction of Houseboat and Rowing Boat Mooring area, Wentworth Riverfront - PT2021/05. (RPT/20/714)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.2 Plant Replacement - Approval of Tenders for Replacement of Plant 65 - Road Sweeper. (RPT/20/795)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for

business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.3 Wentworth Sporting Complex Cool Room - Approval of Tenders for Disposal. (RPT/21/130)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.4 Wentworth Aerodrome Upgrade - Stage 2 - Bitumen, Asphalt and Line Marking Works PT2021/06. (RPT/21/131)

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12 OPEN COUNCIL - REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL

12.1 CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSEBOAT AND ROWING BOAT MOORING AREA, WENTWORTH RIVERFRONT - PT2021/05

File Number: RPT/20/714

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering
 Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering
 Reporting Officer: Ivan McKenzie - Infrastructure Projects Officer

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets
 Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.2 PLANT REPLACEMENT - APPROVAL OF TENDERS FOR REPLACEMENT OF PLANT 65 - ROAD SWEEPER

File Number: RPT/20/795

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Allan Eastmond - Manager Works

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.3 WENTWORTH SPORTING COMPLEX COOL ROOM - APPROVAL OF TENDERS FOR DISPOSAL

File Number: RPT/21/130

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Barbara George - Administration Officer, Roads and Engineering

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

12.4 WENTWORTH AERODROME UPGRADE - STAGE 2 - BITUMEN, ASPHALT AND LINE MARKING WORKS PT2021/06

File Number: RPT/21/131

Responsible Officer: Geoff Gunn - Director Roads and Engineering

Responsible Division: Roads and Engineering

Reporting Officer: Tarryn Kampman - Coordinator Roads & Engineering

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets

Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. On balance, the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of information about the tender outweighs the public interest in maintaining openness and transparency in council decision-making because disclosure of this information would reveal pricing and confidential information submitted via the tender process which if disclosed would prevent council from achieving its 'value for money' objectives.

13 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

NEXT MEETING

21 April 2021